

United Nations Department of Public Information

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Habitat II: the City Summit

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements

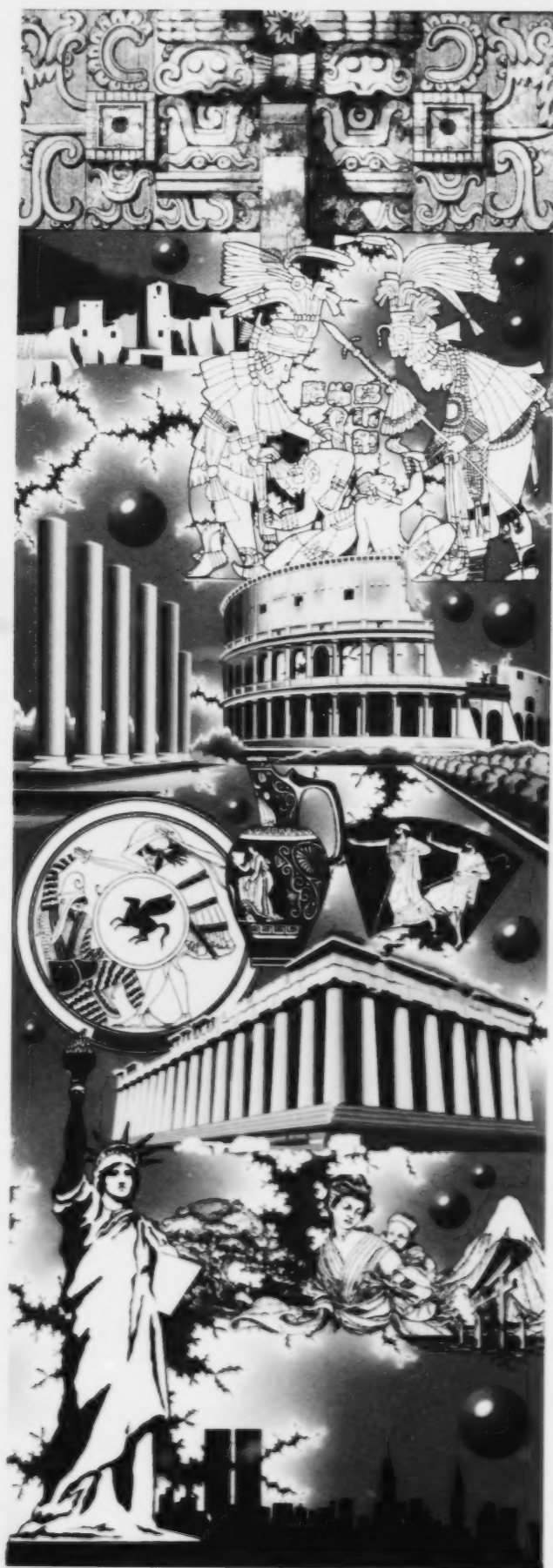
Istanbul, Turkey

3-14 June

1996



Bosnia peace
agreement
Stop press:
financial crisis



Human civilization is the story of its cities. From the vast structures of the Mayas, Incas and Aztecs, from the West's origins in the Athens and Rome of classical antiquity to the modern metropolises of New York or Tokyo—cities define the era. And it is in cities where half of humanity already make their home.

Yet tomorrow's cities loom as urban nightmares if global trends continue. Poverty, pollution and overpopulation characterize many mega-cities of the developing world. Infrastructures are overwhelmed and the social fabric destroyed by the pace of migration to urban centers. Conditions devoid of human aspirations breed crime, disease, alienation and addiction.

The challenge is huge. It cannot be solved by one Government or one sector of society. Yet it affords great potential for Governments, the private sector and multilateral institutions to work together creatively. Burgeoning cities need housing, transport, power, water and sustainable environmental infrastructures: international loan and financial institutions, Governments, local authorities, the private sector and citizens' associations must forge the vital synergy required. That is the challenge of Habitat II. Named the City Summit by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, it will be held by the United Nations in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996.

"Yes, what else but home?"

It all depends on what you mean by home."

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there,

They have to take you in."

—Robert Frost, *The Death of a Hired Man* (1914)

*"You are a king by your own fire-side,
as much as any monarch in his throne."*

—Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (1605-15)

"Habitat is not just about inadequate housing and decaying infrastructures, not just about dangerous streets and environmental neglect and much more. In the final analysis, Habitat II is about attitudes, about leadership, about the willingness of society to meet the needs of humanity, the needs we all share with our neighbours in this 'global village' we call home."

—Habitat II Secretary-General Wally N'Dow

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SECRETARY-GENERAL



Excerpts from statements by
UN Secretary-General
Boutros Boutros-Ghali

In introducing Pope John Paul II at the General Assembly, 5 October

The Holy Father's presence is a reminder of the spiritual dimension of the United Nations. The United Nations was created so that hope could conquer the horror of war. It was created so that compassion—the compassion which all religions share—could conquer the despair of poverty, disease and injustice.

Hope enables us to continue our mission, under the most adverse conditions. Faith enables us to continue the dialogue, to pursue negotiation, even when a situation seems desperate. Love enables us to continue development, to reach out to the less fortunate of our fellow human beings.

To the Conference of Goodwill and Development of Rotary International, New York, 12 October

The world's governments spent about \$150 per human being on military expenditures in 1992. Total spending by the United Nations, by comparison, was less than \$2 per human being. And now, even that very small amount cannot be maintained.

I ask you, community leaders and public-spirited citizens, to spread the word. The interests of each nation and of the United Nations are the same. The world Organization is your organization. The failure to support the League of Nations was a failure that haunted a generation. What happened to the League of Nations must not happen to the United Nations. As the philosopher Santayana said, those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them.

One week ago today at the United Nations, Pope John Paul II addressed, as he said, "the whole family of peoples on the face of the earth". From the family as the smallest, most basic human unit to the immense family that is all humanity itself, the family and family values serve as an allegory for the vision of the United Nations.

For United Nations Day, New York, 24 October

Today, the peoples of the United Nations mark the fiftieth anniversary of the only truly universal organization in humanity's history.

Fifty years is a tiny drop in the stream of the centuries. But no other institution in history has gathered together so many political communities. No other has survived so many storms. No other has built such a promising foundation for the future as has the United Nations.

The peoples of the United Nations stand at a turning point in world affairs. On this anniversary we commemorate—and assess realistically—a half-century of United Nations existence. And on this day we are duty-bound to deliberate on the course to be taken by the world Organization in its second half-century.

Peace is an immediate concern. But the cause of development is essential to enduring success. It calls us to look beyond peace to recognize and take action in the fields of economy, the environment, social justice and democratization.

Let us learn from our setbacks. More importantly, let us build upon our successes, for there have been many: successes in situations too complex or undramatic to gain wide attention; successes in the slow and diligent efforts to achieve progress visible only over the long-term; and successes in major operations for peace, development and democracy which have not been given the recognition they merit.

To the Business Council for the United Nations, New York, 2 November

In Bosnia, the United Nations was sent as a peace-keeper into an ongoing wartime situation. This had never been done before. Paradoxically, now that a cease-fire and peace agreement may be in sight, it appears that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat troops will be sent to replace the United Nations peace-keepers. The concepts are upside-down. The future of peace-keeping—and of our system of international security as a whole—depends upon the restoration of its logic. In war situations, the international

community should authorize the combat forces needed to deal with it. Where a cease-fire is in place, and where the consent and cooperation of the parties are reliable, peace-keepers should be deployed.

And finally, the future of peace-keeping rests upon the correction of another distortion—the distortion between the demands placed upon the United Nations, and the resources provided to it. The United Nations is being instructed to act, but not being given the financial resources to do the job. There is not enough cash to pay for what we have been told to do.

Serious reform efforts are under way. The Organization has cut expenses. We have streamlined operations. We are working hard to reduce waste, duplication and overlap. But today, the impact of the financial crisis is being felt on the front lines of global problem-solving — in a diminished capacity for peace-keeping, in less assistance for development, in less effective support for democratization and human rights. It is a crisis that threatens the very existence of the United Nations.

I appeal to you as leaders of commerce, as persons of influence, as friends of the United Nations, to help me resolve this crisis. I ask you to speak out in support of settling arrears, and of paying future contributions on time and in full. Last week, I told world leaders that the financial crisis was a symptom of a deeper problem: that Member States simply did not regard the United Nations as a priority. But they attended in unprecedented numbers, and they spoke strong words of support for the United Nations. Perhaps, when they return home, they will make the United Nations a priority.

From a lecture at the University of Warsaw, Poland, 10 November

As the Nigerian author, Ben Okri, has written, "A nation that is not free cannot grow". Democracy supplies the only long-term and sustainable route to development. Without democracy, development can take place, but it cannot be expected to endure. Democracy, therefore, is essential for peace and development. It is a process essential for tangible human progress. We are living, therefore, in an era in which democracy is winning widespread acclaim. But this is also an era in which the State is being challenged as the mechanism for solving national problems, and as the basic element of the international system.

To a special meeting of the General Assembly, marking the end of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, New York, 20 November

The year which is drawing to a close ... does not mark the end of our effort in support of tolerance. Quite the contrary. On behalf of the noble objectives of the Charter, on behalf of the principles of the United Nations, and in memory of those who gave their lives for their ideal, we must now, more than ever, say: "No" to intolerance! "No" to fanaticism! "No" to all kinds of micro-nationalism!"

The United Nations must tirelessly continue to demonstrate to the men and women of this era that the prevailing openness in the world offers a formidable opportunity for the future, an unexpected chance to transcend our differences in order to attain what I once referred to as "the irreducible human element", that is, the quintessence of the values by which we define ourselves as a single human community.

From a lecture at the Ottawa Congress Center, Canada, 22 November

In the United Nations, Member States have a mechanism for sharing burdens and responsibilities. Preventing conflicts from erupting. Peacemaking between adversaries. Maintaining cease-fires. Clearing land-mines and peace-building among peoples. The United Nations is not a substitute or surrogate for individual action by Member States. But in many cases, it can provide a useful alternative to unilateral action. In other cases, it serves as a valuable supplement. And in some cases it provides an indispensable mechanism for success. In all cases, the United Nations offers a way for the entire international community to be involved.

However, the current situation of the United Nations is uncertain and precarious. The spirit of the founding fathers of the Charter combined generosity and good will. Fifty years later, this internationalism sometimes becomes eroded.

We note that, for some States, there is a wide gulf between the awareness that problems exist and the willingness to do something about them. Much is asked of the world Organization without providing it with the financial resources to act. As I speak, over half the Member States have not paid their assessed contributions to the regular budget in full. And the arrears total some \$3 billion.

Things have reached the stage where I occasionally congratulate a State for paying an assessed contribution in full and on time, or I write a letter expressing my thanks to Heads of State who pay what they owe to the Organization.

At the dedication of busts of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, United Nations Office at Geneva, 11 December

It was Franklin Roosevelt who, for the first time, used the words "the United Nations", not in a speech which he gave on 1 January 1942, but before in his exchange of letters with Churchill. Roosevelt died just before the Charter was signed, but he knew that his vision was soon to become a reality. The United Nations today is a reality. It is not only a reality, but it is also the only forum which will be able to promote peace and development and democracy.

It is most appropriate that we continue to honour the memory of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt—reformers, activists and tireless workers in the pursuit of peace and human rights and who showed compassion for the problems of the underdog all over the world. ■

UN efforts give 'exemplary illustration of diplomacy of democratization', says Secretary-General

René Prével wins presidential elections

René Prével, a close ally and supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Prime Minister in his Government in 1991, had won the 17 December presidential elections in Haiti and took office on 7 February 1996.

According to a UN spokesperson, Mr. Prével had received 87.9 per cent and his runner-up only 2.5 per cent of the popular vote, while some 28 per cent of the registered voters had taken part in the elections.

On 6 November, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had reported (S/1995/922) a "clear victory" of the Lavalas platform—a political movement associated with President Aristide—in the legislative and local elections. The Lavalas had won 17 of 27 seats in the Senate and 66 of 83 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, as well as 102 of 133 mayorships and 345 of 562 *Conseils d'administration de sections communales*.

"While those parties that boycotted the elections claimed credit for the low voter turnout, it could in fact have resulted from factors such as the lack of civic education, fatigue, low-key campaigning and preoccupation with economic issues", the Secretary-General said. Overall, the elections had been carried out in an "environment free of fear, violence and intimidation", he stressed.

On 15 October, in addressing a ceremony in Port-au-Prince to celebrate the first anniversary of President Aristide's return to power, the Secretary-General declared: "I see the work done in Haiti as an exemplary illustration of that diplomacy of democratization of which I am an ever more ardent advocate, and which today constitutes one of the basic objectives to be adopted by the international community."

Democratization was a "difficult un-

dertaking", requiring the "awakening of the civic conscience", and the "culture of democracy must take increasingly deeper root within the country", he stated.



Newly sworn in Haitian President René Prével (right) is embraced by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide during the inauguration ceremonies on 7 February.

'Crucial step'

The Security Council on 16 November, in commending the Government of Haiti for holding local and legislative elections in a "peaceful and non-violent environment", stressed that "continued engagement and commitment" of all Haitian parties was necessary to the successful organization of "free, fair and peaceful presidential elections".

In a statement by its President, Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman, the Council also declared that the holding of those elections on schedule was a "crucial step in consolidating long-lasting democracy in Haiti and ensuring a smooth transition of government", and called on all political parties in the country to participate.

The UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was commended on the substantial progress in fulfilling its mandate, as

set out in resolution 940 (1994), to assist Haiti in: sustaining a secure and stable environment; protecting international personnel and key installations; establishing the conditions for holding elections; and creating a new professional police force.

The role of UNMIH and the Joint UN/Organization of American States International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH) in assisting the Haitian authorities with the electoral process was also noted with satisfaction.

Also, in expressing concern over "recent instances of violence" in Haiti, the Council urged "respect for the rule of law, national reconciliation and cooperation".

The Council underlined its firm support for the progress the country had already made, and emphasized that the Haitian Government and people bore the "primary responsibility for Haiti's political, economic and social reconstruction".

It shared the Secretary-General's view that the establishment of a professional police force capable of maintaining law and order throughout the country was "central to Haiti's long-term stability". In that regard, attention should be focused on the "selection and training of the Haitian National Police supervisors and on interested Member States providing the police force with the necessary equipment", the Council stated.

Assembly action

The General Assembly, by its two resolutions related to the democracy and human rights situation in Haiti, hailed the "satisfactory evolution of the political process" in that country (50/196), and paid tribute to its people in their "ongoing quest for strong and lasting democracy, justice and economic prosperity" (50/86). ■

Assembly calls for peace agreement in Guatemala

The General Assembly on 20 December, in stressing the "importance of intensifying the serious and resolute negotiations" between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (UNRG), urged that "negotiations on the remaining agenda items should be concluded without delay, with a view to reaching at the earliest possible date a firm and lasting peace agreement, thus completing the peace process in Central America" (*resolution 50/132*).

On 15 December, in Mexico City, the Government and the UNRG had produced a working document on "socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation" in Guatemala, which showed the points of convergence and divergence still existing on the issue.

In concluding their final negotiating session for 1995, both sides, as well as the UN, thanked the Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process—Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States and Venezuela—for their support, and recognized the progress achieved since the 10 January 1994 Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process. The value of negotiations as a "means of ending the armed conflict and the need to ensure continuity during 1996 until a final peace agreement is signed" were also stressed.

Elections

Alvaro Arzú of the National Advancement Party (PAN) took office on 14 January as President of Guatemala after winning the second round of presidential elections held on 7 January.

The run-off between Mr. Arzú and Alfonso Portillo of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) was organized because none had won the "50 per cent plus one" majority on 12 November, when elections were held for the country's parliament and local legislatures, the UN Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the 29 March 1994 Comprehensive Agreement on

Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) reported. The biggest winners in the 80-seat Guatemalan parliament were the PAN, with 43 seats, and the FRG, which had received 21 seats.

The elections—"scrutinized by international observers", including 52 from the Organization of the American States and 61 from the European Union—were not subject to special verification by MINUGUA. However, close attention had been paid to "any situation which could constitute a violation of the political rights of the Guatemalan people", the Mission said.

Attack on MINUGUA office

Shortly before midnight on 11 November, on the eve of the elections, MINUGUA office in Guatemala City had been "machine-gunned by unknown assailants", the Mission reported. MINUGUA Director Leonardo Franco stated that the incident was an "attack on peace and an affront to the Guatemalan people".

On 6 October, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed his deep concern over a 5 October "tragic incident" in the returnee community "Aurora 8 de octubre" in the Alta Vera-

paz region, in which reportedly 10 people had been killed and 18 wounded.

Human rights 'still a concern'

The general human rights situation in Guatemala was "still a cause for concern and has in some ways taken a turn for the worse", the MINUGUA Director stated on 12 October.

Among major problems reported (*A/50/482*) by the Mission were: the "serious lack of public security", which denied the people the possibility of "living free of fear and of attacks on their lives, integrity of person and liberty"; a crisis in the judicial system, with a "virtual miscarriage of justice in response to serious human rights violations", as well as the persistence of impunity; and instances of torture and illegal detention.

Also, the Mission found out that the power of criminal organizations and individuals was "greater than the power of the institutions responsible for combating them". To reverse that equation, the Government should "identify, disband and punish such groups, investigating their possible links with State officials or institutions and placing the responsibility where it belongs", the report stressed. ■

MINUSAL extended

The Mission of the UN in El Salvador (MINUSAL)—which had taken over from a larger UN Observer Mission (ONUSAL) on 1 May in order to provide good offices and verify implementation of the outstanding provisions of the January 1992 Peace Accords between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN)—was extended by the General Assembly on 31 October for another six months, "with a gradual reduction of its strength and costs, in a manner compatible with the efficient performance of its functions".

By adopting without a vote resolution 50/7, the Assembly also wel-

comed the "continued commitment of the Government and people of El Salvador to the consolidation of the peace process", and recognized with satisfaction the "continuing evolution of El Salvador from a country torn by conflict into a democratic and peaceful nation".

The Secretary-General on 6 October, in recommending MINUSAL's extension, had stated that there was "no question of the Government's political will to comply fully with its commitments". However, he felt that the continued presence of a small Mission was necessary to fulfil the UN undertaking to verify the implementation of the peace agreements.

Continued incursions by former government forces

UNAMIR gets a final extension and adjusted mandate

UNHCR Photo/P. Mountzis

Concerned about continuing reports of "military preparations and incursions into Rwanda by elements of the former regime", and stressing the importance of the voluntary, safe repatriation of refugees, the Security Council on 12 December decided to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), at a reduced force level of 1,200 troops, for a final period until 8 March 1996.

Under resolution 1029 (1995), adopted unanimously, UNAMIR's mandate was adjusted to allow it to exercise its good offices to promote genuine national reconciliation and help achieve the voluntary repatriation of refugees. This would be undertaken within the frame of reference of recommendations adopted at the February 1995 Bujumbura Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and at the November 1995 Cairo Summit of Heads of State. The Council also authorized UNAMIR to assist the Rwandese Government in facilitating the refugees' safe return and to support efforts in promoting a "climate of confidence and trust" by performing monitoring tasks. Effective measures were needed, the Council said, to ensure that Rwandese nationals in neighbouring countries "do not undertake military activities aimed at destabilizing Rwanda".

States should cooperate fully with the International Commission of Inquiry and "support the early and effective functioning" of the International Tribunal for Rwanda and the rehabilitation of the country's justice system.

(Under Council resolution 1013



Rwandese refugees on the move in the United Republic of Tanzania.

(1995) of 7 September, the Commission of Inquiry collects information and investigates reports about the supply of arms and related *matériel* in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. It is empowered as well to look into allegations that former Rwandese Government Forces (RGF) were receiving military training to destabilize Rwanda.)

Under the adjusted mandate, UNAMIR was also authorized to assist the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international agencies in providing logistical support for the refugees' repatriation and contribute, with the agreement of the Government, to the protection of the International Tribunal, until alternative arrangements agreed with the Government can be put in place.

In addition to the force reduction, the number of military observers, headquarters and other military support staff would fall to 200, and the Civilian

Police component would be withdrawn. The Secretary-General was asked to begin planning for UNAMIR's complete withdrawal within six weeks of the mandate's expiry, and to examine the feasibility of transferring "non-lethal" equipment for use in Rwanda.

This action followed a four-day extension on 8 December (*resolution 1028 (1995)*) of UNAMIR's mandate, to give the Council more time to consider the Mission's future. It was taken after Rwanda stated (*S/1995/1018*) it would not agree to extend the existing mandate, asserting that the peace-keeping mission "does not respond to our priority needs".

'Contradictions' seen by Rwanda

After voting for the three-month final extension, Rwanda—at the time a non-permanent Council member—asserted that "contradictions", including a 21 April 1994 Council decision to reduce

the Mission's force level even though widespread killings had begun, had marked UN policy towards the country. (By resolution 912 (1994), the Council had reduced UNAMIR's force level to 270, from over 2,500. Subsequently, under resolution 918 (1994) of 17 May 1994, it had expanded the mandate and authorized a force of 5,500.)

In addition, the safe humanitarian zone set up by "Operation Turquoise"—a French-led multinational force deployed from 22 June 1994 to the end of August 1994, with Council authorization—had instead "provided a safe haven for the perpetrators of genocide". The genocide, it maintained, had been stopped instead by the Rwandese Government's action. However, UNAMIR had played an important role in facilitating transportation and providing logistical support in areas of need; and given the "gap" that would open upon its departure, Rwanda requested the donation of some of the Mission's non-lethal equipment.

France, which had expressed the hope that UNAMIR would have been able to continue further, responded that "Operation Turquoise" had been a humanitarian operation "intended strictly to save human lives" at a time when the international community had been unable to mobilize. France had taken part in that force to prevent further human tragedy. Rwanda, while thanking the participants, said "Operation Turquoise" had come too late and "a million Rwandans had already been exterminated".

Several speakers expressed reservations at the wisdom of deciding on a final cut-off date for UNAMIR or retaining it at a reduced level. Botswana said UNAMIR had made "a tremendous contribution to peace and stability, not only in Rwanda but in the Great Lakes region", and would have preferred a six-month extension. Canada, a UNAMIR troop contributor but not a Council member, felt that by reducing the Mission, the Council was demonstrating that it had not fully "absorbed lessons learned from the recent past in peace-keeping operations". If Member States were not prepared to provide adequate resources, the UN should not be

involved, it said. Canada would have to "consider its options carefully regarding its own participation" in UNAMIR.

'Relative security'

In a 1 December report (*S/1995/1002*), Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said "a climate of relative security and stability has continued to prevail within Rwanda, despite the absence of any discernible effort towards national reconciliation". Some improvement in socio-economic sectors and in the revival of the judicial system had been achieved, but infiltration by the former RGF and armed militia continued along the Zaire-Rwanda border.

“ National reconciliation the 'core issue' ”

According to the Secretary-General, the restoration of the national judicial system had suffered delays as a result of constitutional, administrative and human resources constraints, with the prison population swelling to nearly 60,000. Initial steps had been taken with the appointment by the National Assembly of six Supreme Court judges. As a result of continuing efforts by the Government-appointed Prison Commission and the UN Task Force, emergency measures had provided additional prison space, leading to "noticeably fewer deaths and better medical facilities".

Steady progress in the "transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" had been made, and the overall food situation had improved, allowing reductions in food aid allocations to populations at risk. As a result, the functions of the UN Rwanda Emergency Office had been transferred on 31 October to the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

Government revenue was reviving, but not enough to cover shortfalls during the first half of the year. Payment of salaries to the military was overdue by at least six months, "which undoubtedly compounds the difficulties of maintaining law and order", the Secretary-General warned. Inflation had fallen to 1.4 per cent per month. In the social sector, "a considerable degree of progress" had been achieved by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

International Tribunal

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda was continuing its "investigations into last year's massacres", and the first indictments were expected before year's end, according to the report. UNAMIR troops were contributing to the security of the Tribunal and the Human Rights Field Operation, as well as of other personnel of the UN and humanitarian agencies. They were also helping with the safe return and resettlement of refugees, and rebuilding basic infrastructure, and medical assistance. The Civilian Police component was training the Rwandan National Police Force, in accordance with Council resolution 997 (1995), and performing monitoring duties with UN military observers throughout the country.

With national reconciliation still the "core issue", conditions had to be rapidly created to facilitate the safe return of 1.6 million refugees and to bring to justice the perpetrators of genocide, Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded.

"After nearly a year and a half in camps in Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania, the refugees have placed formidable socio-economic and environmental burdens on the host countries, and this has sometimes severely strained the latter's goodwill", he warned. In addition, increasing infiltration and sabotage activities by the former RGF and militia had heightened tension in Rwanda and between it and neighbouring countries, creating the "danger of cycles of reciprocal recrimination". All those factors also heightened the risk of forceful refoulement of refugees, which could lead to another humanitarian disaster.

UNAMIR 'desirable'

A large part of the international community felt that a six-month extension of UNAMIR's mandate was desirable, the Secretary-General reported. That view was also shared by donor countries, most UNAMIR troop contributors, the UNHCR, the International Tribunal, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN agencies, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Rwanda's neighbours, which felt that "if UNAMIR was to be perceived as abandoning Rwanda at this critical time, it would send a discouraging message to the refugees, to the region and to the international community at large".

While the continued presence of UNAMIR "could help to build confidence among the refugees and encourage them to take the decision to return", the Secretary-General said that given the Government's position regarding an extension, he would have to initiate the draw-down of UNAMIR as of 8 December, with the process expected to take two to three months to complete. UNAMIR would not be able to fulfil its current mandate and would concentrate instead on ensuring a smooth and peaceful departure. He also recommended that the UN maintain a political presence in Rwanda after the operation's withdrawal. Rwanda had indicated it would be "receptive" to some sort of continued UN presence, provided it would be to assist in rehabilitation and reconstruction, including providing technical expertise, financial assistance and equipment.

Regional efforts

The 28 and 29 November regional summit in Cairo, attended by the Heads of State of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, resulted in the parties pledging in a Declaration on the Great Lakes Region (S/1995/1001) to take concrete actions to advance peace, justice, reconciliation, stability and development in the region. Earlier, on 10 November, the Secretary-General had welcomed the initiative by former United States President Jimmy Carter to act as conference facilitator, saying he hoped it would lead

to lasting peace in Rwanda and Burundi and to the "speedy return of refugees on a voluntary basis".

In his 30 October letter to the Council (S/1995/945), Mr. Boutros-Ghali reported that his Special Envoy, José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, had consultations with the OAU and the Governments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania regarding the convening of a regional conference on security, stability and development. Rwanda, however, had expressed strong opposition to the idea, while Uganda had not been "keen" to have the UN actively involved in the process. Nonetheless, the Secretary-General said he would continue to monitor developments.



UN Photo 191010/G. Kinch
President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda addressing the General Assembly on 24 October

On 10 November, Council President Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman replied (S/1995/946), voicing the Council's "support to all efforts to reduce tension and restore stability" in the region and encouraging continuing contacts aimed at convening a conference.

Rwandese President Pasteur Bizimungu told reporters in New York on 24 October that the main obstacle to the return of refugees from Zaire was "the influence of former leaders and former soldiers who did not want to return voluntarily, and who were preventing refugees from returning". There was also a "hard core of perpetrators unwilling to return because they would be held accountable for their acts".

Reconciliation progress welcomed

On 17 October, progress by the Rwandan Government in the national reconciliation process, including the integration of more than 2,000 former RGF troops into the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA), was welcomed by the Council.

A statement by the Council President in October, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, called on the Government "to intensify its contacts with all sectors of Rwandan society, except with those directly responsible for the genocide". Concern was expressed at the danger to regional peace and stability of reported cross-border infiltrations from neighbouring countries and of uncontrolled arms flows.

While condemning violence in the country, the Council also welcomed the fact that the Government had "voluntarily and without delay initiated an investigation into the killing of civilians at Kanama and expects that prosecution of those responsible will follow". (During the night of 11 and 12 September, 110 people, including women and children, were killed and a number of others wounded in the Kanama commune in northwest Rwanda.)

Given the "appalling" situation in the country's prisons, measures initiated by the UN, in coordination with the international community and the Rwandese Government, to alleviate the "intolerable" conditions in the prisons were welcomed. The Government was urged to restore its judicial system and the international community was asked to assist.

Member States should also cooperate with the International Tribunal for Rwanda, the Council said, urging them to arrest and detain persons suspected of genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, in accordance with resolution 978 (1995). Support was voiced for the work of human rights monitors in Rwanda.

Refugee problem is the 'most immediate'

"The refugee problem is perhaps the most immediate cause and consequence of the instability and political

divisions confronting Rwanda and the Great Lakes region as a whole", the Secretary-General emphasized in a 7 October report (S/1995/848), which was the basis for the Council's 17 October action.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the benefits of continued Rwandese cooperation with the UN and the international community would be "limited as long as the Rwandese remain divided by fear and mistrust and the spectre of renewed conflict hangs over the country".

According to the report, the Government's declared policy of promoting broad-based participation and national reconciliation had been influenced by two major events: the departure of Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, who had left office on 28 August together with four Cabinet Ministers;

repatriation by Zaire of some 13,000 Rwandese refugees in August testified to progress in stabilizing the country, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said. The formal integration on 9 September of 1,200 RGF members into the RPA had brought to 2,000 the number of RGF troops serving with the RPA.

Since the visit to the region from 31 August to 7 September by High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, Rwandese officials had "promised to do everything in their power" to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees "in conditions of safety and dignity". At a meeting of the Tripartite Commission (Arusha, 18-21 September) involving the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and the UNHCR, practical measures had been agreed on for starting large-scale repatriation of the more than 600,000

with the UNHCR and other human rights organizations. Zaire, in turn, committed itself to reducing intimidation in camps within its borders.

Voluntary repatriation: a priority

Long-term peace in Rwanda would remain elusive as long as large concentrations of Rwandese were encamped in neighbouring countries, the Secretary-General cautioned in his report. He hoped the Commission of Inquiry would help defuse tensions and promote mutual confidence along the borders.

"The damage done to Rwanda's society and psyche by last year's tragic events has been brutal and profound", Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded, and it was "essential that those responsible be brought to justice so as to put an end to the prevailing culture of impunity and to prevent a recurrence of such atrocities". While Rwanda had made visible progress, the country "still has a long road to travel in its search for reconciliation and recovery".

The Rwandese Government, in a 21 December letter (S/1995/1055), expressed its concern at the Secretary-General's reference to the potential for the occurrence of another genocide in Rwanda. The Secretary-General, speaking to reporters on 18 December, had said that there was a crisis of confidence in Rwanda and that the refugees did not want to return there. "Everybody is afraid that a new genocide may happen, this time not by the Hutu against the Tutsi, but by the Tutsi against the Hutu", he added.

The letter stated that the new government had demonstrated to the world that it had not established a State policy of revenge. Instead, it had pursued a policy of bringing the accused to justice. The present Government would never allow another genocide.

Commission of Inquiry begins work

On 16 October, the Secretary-General informed the Council that arrangements had been completed for the establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry to investigate reports



Young victims of the conflict.

and the Kanama incident in September. The Government, however, had moved quickly to counteract those events by appointing a new Prime Minister and replacing the departing Ministers, as well as by acknowledging RPA excesses and promising punishment of the guilty.

The "efficient manner" in which the Government had handled the forcible

Rwandese refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania.

In a joint communiqué issued at a 25 September meeting of the Commission at Geneva, which involved Zaire, Rwanda and the UNHCR, Rwanda said it would strengthen reception facilities, reduce border controls and provide security and protection to returnees, in collaboration

of military training and arms transfers to former government forces. Mahmoud Kassem of Egypt would serve as Commission Chairman. The five other members were: Jean-Michel Hanssens of Canada; Col. Jürgen G. H. Almeling of Germany; Lt. Col. Jan Meijvogel of the Netherlands; Brigadier Mujahid Alam of Pakistan; and Col. Lamek Mutanda of Zimbabwe. The Council on 20 October welcomed the decision.

Following initial briefings in New York, the Commission began its work in the Great Lakes region on 3 November. It was expected to visit Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire and to submit an interim report within three months.

General Assembly action

The General Assembly, in resolution 50/200 of 22 December, said the Rwandese Government's efforts to reconstruct the civil administration and the social, legal and human rights infrastructure were "hampered by a lack of human and financial resources". Member States, the UN, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs should intensify efforts to contribute financial and technical support to those efforts, particularly in the administration of justice, according to the Member States.

Effective action to prevent further violations of human rights must be a central and integral element of the overall Rwandese and UN responses to the situation, the Assembly declared. A strong human rights component was "indispensable to the political peace process and the post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda".

In resolution 50/58 L, also adopted on 22 December, the Assembly encouraged Rwanda to create "conditions that would be conducive to the return of the refugees to their country and their resettlement, and to the recovery by displaced persons of their property in peace, security and dignity". Welcoming the commitment of the Government to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel operating in the country, including NGOs, it called for continued assistance to help alleviate the intolerable conditions in the prisons and expedite the processing of cases.

Recent indictments issued by the International Tribunal were welcomed.

Donor countries were urged to "contribute generously" to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General on 14 July 1994 to finance humanitarian relief and rehabilitation programmes in Rwanda. Mr. Boutros-Ghali was asked to consult with the Government and with the relevant UN agencies on the nature of a continued UN presence in Rwanda after 8 March 1996 and on the role such a presence might play in furthering the search for peace and stability through justice, reconciliation and refugee return.

On 21 December, the General Assembly, acting to strengthen UNHCR's emergency response capacity on the basis of the experience of the emergency in Rwanda, called on (resolution 50/149) Governments, UN organizations, NGOs and the international community "to continue providing needed resources and operational support to Rwandese refugees and the host countries until a permanent solution can be implemented".

On 23 December, it appropriated (resolution 50/211) \$32.3 million gross (\$31.8 million net) for the operation of UNAMIR for the period 1 January to 8 March 1996, and urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions to the Mission promptly and in full. It also appropriated (resolution 50/213) \$7.6 million gross (\$7.1 million net) for the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the period 1 January to 31 March 1996.

UNHCR issues appeal

On 22 December, the UNHCR issued a \$288-million appeal to cover the cost of its 1996 operations for Rwandese and Burundi refugees and returnees in the Great Lakes region. It placed special emphasis on voluntary repatriation to Rwanda and on plans for a shift in pro-



Help for the smallest Rwandese refugees.

grammes from care and maintenance of refugees in countries of asylum to return and reintegration in the country of origin. A successful repatriation would depend on the willingness of the Governments involved to fulfil previous commitments made at the Nairobi Summit, the Bujumbura Conference and in meetings of the Tripartite Commission, the appeal stated. At a 20 December meeting of the Tripartite Commission, the UNHCR had expressed concern at the lack of significant progress towards creating some of the necessary conditions for a voluntary return.

According to figures provided by the Agency, an estimated 1.7 million refugees still remained in camps in Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, and would continue to need assistance prior to repatriation. As many as 820,000 Rwandese refugees could repatriate during 1996, leaving a residual caseload of some 900,000 by the end of the year. ■

Serious negotiations urged to prevent escalation of violence

'Full-scale civil war' and genocide possible

In a carefully worded resolution, the Security Council on 5 March encouraged Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to continue his consultations regarding contingency planning "both for the steps that might be taken to support a comprehensive dialogue and for a rapid humanitarian response in the event of widespread violence or a serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation" in Burundi. The action was taken as the death toll in the previous two weeks in north-western Burundi was widely reported to have risen, and after the Secretary-General on 16 February urged the Council to consider setting up a stand-by multinational force for rapid humanitarian intervention.

Declaring in resolution 1049 (1996) that it was "deeply disturbed that the persistence of the conflict has had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation and on the capacity of the international community to continue to assist the people of Burundi", the Council strongly condemned acts of violence against civilians, refugees and international aid personnel. It demanded that the parties concerned refrain from such violence or from seeking to destabilize the situation or to depose the Government, and called on them "to engage, as a matter of urgency, in serious negotiations and mutual accommodation".

The Council also asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Burundi Government, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union, Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa and Member States concerned, to intensify preparations for convening a regional conference for peace, security and development. A report on the possibility of establishing a UN radio station in the country "to promote reconciliation and dialogue and to relay

constructive information" was also requested.

Burundi 'prepared to confront any expeditionary corps'

While the resolution was adopted unanimously, statements made in the Council meeting reflected a mixed response. Burundi, invited to participate in the discussion, rejected the view

logue". However, the resolution was "very clear" in warning the parties that the international community might be forced to "change its attitude" if there were acts of violence or attempts at destabilization. The United States asserted that "given the horrors of what happened in Rwanda, and the persistence of outrages in Burundi, we would fail in our responsibilities if we did not"



Burundi refugees building their hut in Runingo camp, Zaire.

that the country would descend into a "Rwanda-style genocide". Maintaining that "new phenomena" for peace had emerged and isolated those opposed to it, Burundi warned that its army was "completely prepared to confront any expeditionary corps, regardless of its humanitarian or military label."

Italy—speaking on behalf of the European Union, Poland, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, Malta, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania and Cyprus—said that "another potential humanitarian catastrophe in the region can be averted only if all the interested parties realize that there is no viable solution outside of dia-

plan for the contingency that widespread violence might resume. France emphasized that the Council "must ensure that its decisions do not run counter to the efforts of the Government", while China underlined that the internal affairs of a Member State should be settled by the people of that country.

Although repeated appeals for preventive action by the Secretary-General have helped keep worldwide attention focused on the situation in Burundi and the entire Great lakes region, they have also underscored the dilemma the crisis poses for the UN.

UNHCR Photo/A. Hollmann



Burundi refugee family.

The international community could not countenance the country becoming an ethnic killing field like that which scarred Rwanda in 1994. However, with Burundi's Government strongly objecting to the stationing of military forces in Zaire or any other neighbouring country with a view to rapid deployment in its territory, the Council and the Secretary-General have continued to discuss ways to contain a possible escalation of the violence without resorting to troop deployment.

Burundi, which borders Rwanda, Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania, has been racked by a low-grade civil war that, according to some estimates, has been claiming as many as 30 lives every day. Since a coup attempt in October 1993 and ensuing massacres, thousands more Burundese have perished in inter-ethnic violence. The country's ethnic make-up is similar to Rwanda's: a relatively large Hutu majority and small Tutsi minority.

Forestalling genocide

Fearing that the rekindled tensions in strife-torn Burundi could escalate "into full-scale civil war, ethnic vio-

lence and genocide", the Secretary-General, in a 16 February report (S/1996/116), called on the Council to take "resolute action" and begin to consider the possibility of establishing a standby multinational force of up to 25,000 soldiers, organized under the leadership of a single Member State and authorized to use force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Troops would be earmarked and matched with equipment, but would remain on standby in their respective countries.

According to the Secretary-General, the full complement of 25,000 troops would be needed only "in a worst case scenario". Should the parties in Burundi "decide not to adopt a hostile attitude" to the force, if and when deployed, perhaps as little as 5,000 to 8,000 troops would be required, he estimated.

The force, designed to "forestall possible genocide" and a massive exodus of refugees, would be mandated "to deter massacres, to provide security to refugees, displaced persons and civilians at risk and to protect key economic installations". Troops would be deployed to selected areas of actual or potential confrontation. The operation would be established under Chapter VII, as the Government "indicated it would not consent to any kind of foreign humanitarian operation with a military component on its territory".

The humanitarian force would transfer its responsibility to a UN peace-keeping mission under Chapter VI of the Charter, once the situation in the country stabilized.

Calling Burundi "a test case" for the UN's ability to take preventive action, Mr. Boutros-Ghali also stressed in strong terms that, in addition to preparing contingency measures to avoid a "catastrophe", dialogue should continue to be encouraged among all sections of the national political landscape. In this regard, his Special Representative in Burundi, Marc Faguy, was engaged in intense efforts to promote a dialogue, possibly under UN

auspices, that would embrace all elements of Burundi's political spectrum. However, he had been unable to report substantial progress. As a result, the Secretary-General felt it was "necessary to consider other steps of a preventive nature, including those with a military aspect, to persuade the parties to leave the path of confrontation".

The international community must "act in a coherent and concerted way. If it does, the extremists on both sides will not be under any illusions that they can exploit perceived differences and continue to destabilize the country with impunity", he stressed.

Guards ruled out for now

The Secretary-General ruled out for the time being any deployment of UN guards to provide enhanced security to aid workers operating in the country. A technical mission had visited Burundi from 27 January to 3 February 1996 to look into the possibility, but according to its assessment guards would not be effective, given the current volatility, the fact that they could become potential targets for extremist groups, as well as "significant opposition" from within the Government. However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali held open the possibility of a later deployment of the guards "should the political dynamics of confrontation change in favour of dialogue and should the Government agree to their deployment".

President Sylvestre Ntibunganya and Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo of Burundi, thanking the UN for its efforts to restore confidence and peace in their country, on 13 February maintained that the Government was "establishing a policy of dialogue so as to counter all the extremist and factional elements" that were undermining those efforts. This and other measures had "succeeded in thwarting destabilizing intrigues on the part of certain political leaders", according to the two, who also stressed that the international community's support in "the quest for a definitive and satisfactory solution for all parties" should be effected "in strict respect for its sovereignty and to the exclusion of any use of force".

Preventive steps

The Secretary-General's report had come at the request of the Council, which on 29 January asked him to consider further preventive steps to avoid a worsening of the situation in Burundi and to develop contingency plans by 20 February. He was also asked to report on his efforts to encourage a comprehensive political dialogue.

In adopting unanimously resolution 1040 (1996), the Council also warned that, in light of the Secretary-General's report, it would be ready to consider an arms embargo on Burundi, travel restrictions and other measures against those leaders who continued to encourage violence, and "other steps" that might be needed.

Airwaves polluted by propaganda

The international community was invited to help identify and dismantle radio stations that "incite hatred and acts of violence in Burundi." Similar radio stations had operated in Rwanda, helping to spur on some of the worst excesses of the genocide in that neighbouring country.

The Council also welcomed the dispatch of a technical security team to Burundi after Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), called for the team on the heels of her 7 and 8 January visit to the country at the Secretary-General's request. During her two-day stay, she had looked at ways to improve security arrangements, including the deployment of UN guards (a technique first introduced in northern Iraq).

Invited to participate in the Council's discussion, Burundi said that "to defuse the crisis in Burundi it is important to stress the pre-eminence of judicious diplomacy over military intervention".

In an 18 January letter to the Council (S/1996/40), Burundi's Permanent Representative to the UN, Nsanze Terence, rejected the deployment of UN guards, as well as the stationing in neighbouring countries of military forces. "Far from serving as a deterrent", he said, "the military presence in the immediate vicinity of Burundi

would appear to be a sword of Damocles." It would "oblige the Burundian army to prepare to defend the country against such an expedition".

It was in the UN's best interest "to abandon that formula once and for all, irrespective of the further evolution of the crisis", he said, calling instead for massive intervention in areas such as

former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. Ambassador Weston said that the Council wanted to be very clear on objectives, resources and mandates before taking any new steps.

On 16 January, the Secretary-General had informed the Council of a deterioration of the security situation in Burundi as a whole. "In a climate of



New refugees settling down.

national reconciliation, free and responsible press, humanitarian assistance and enhancement of the judicial system.

'Growing radicalization'

The Council had approved the dispatch of the technical security team on 19 January. There was a great deal of concern among Council members on the situation in Burundi, according to its President, Sir John Weston of the United Kingdom. Briefing correspondents at UN Headquarters in New York, he said, there were immediate humanitarian concerns in the country, adding that Mrs. Ogata, after her mission, had emphasized that "if agencies were not able to carry out their work, there could be a humanitarian tragedy".

However, he stressed that there were two other dimensions to the problem, "namely, the need for political dialogue and whether there should be other operational moves to pre-empt or prevent worse things from happening". The Council would address those questions following briefings from the Secretary-General and after hearing from

growing radicalization", he said (S/1996/36), "extremists from the two main ethnic groups in the country are engaged in a round of violence that includes selective killings, massacres of civilians and the destruction of national economic assets and infrastructure." Additionally, the "polarization" of State institutions, particularly the security forces, was increasing. It was therefore imperative that the international community launch a major initiative to prevent another tragedy in the subregion, he concluded.

Commission of Inquiry

On 3 January, in an interim report on the work of the International Commission of Inquiry, set up to establish the facts relating to the 21 October 1993 assassination of Burundi's President Melchior Ndadaye during a failed coup attempt, as well as the massacres and related violence that followed, the Secretary-General said the Commission had identified several "major problems" in its investigations, including evidence that may have been "lost, suppressed or altered".

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However, the most serious problem, according to the Commission, was the "general deterioration of the security situation". It felt that reliance on Burundese security forces for protection was likely to impede the Commission's access to testimony and also compromise its credibility as an impartial international body. Security situation and resources allowing, it would initiate a detailed, systematic investigation of the crimes under its mandate, it said. The Commission had arrived in Bujumbura on 29 October 1995 and submitted its preliminary report to the Secretary-General on 20 December.

On 12 January, Council members underlined (S/1996/27) the importance of the Commission's work and welcomed an agreement of the OAU, reported to them by the Secretary-General's representative, to allow its observers to accompany the investigative body's officers in their work.

Ethnic violence 'on a massive scale' feared

There was "a real danger of the situation in Burundi degenerating to the point where it might explode into ethnic violence on a massive scale", the Secretary-General had warned on 29 December. The situation was characterized by daily killings, massacres, torture and arbitrary detention.

In a letter to the Council President (S/1995/1068), he renewed an earlier proposal to maintain a military presence in Zaire, subject to that Government's agreement, which could intervene in a sudden deterioration of the situation. It was "a preventive measure that could help to avoid a repetition of the tragic events in Rwanda", he stressed.

In view of the worsening situation, Mr. Boutros-Ghali also asked the Council to reconsider deploying guards to protect the humanitarian organization teams and human rights observers. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights José Ayala Lasso, he pointed out, had not yet been able to secure funds needed to deploy observers, "despite numerous and repeated appeals to potential donor Governments".

The deteriorating situation was underscored by the recent decisions of humanitarian organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to curtail or suspend activities in the country following a spate of violent attacks against their personnel and assets. He had therefore asked Mrs. Ogata to go to Bujumbura to discuss with the Government urgent steps to allow international organizations to function effectively.

The Secretary-General had also received reports from various sources concerning "the persistence of violence and the further escalation of human rights violations".

Earlier, on 22 December, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had appealed to all parties in Burundi to honour the neutrality of humanitarian organizations, and not to impede humanitarian assistance.

Recent violent confrontations in Bujumbura and neighbouring provinces, he said, had resulted "in further movements of populations and increased suffering of innocent victims". Members of the humanitarian community in the country had become "targets of this unrest", he added, stressing that the perpetrators of "the acts of intimidation are seriously compromising the provision of assistance to those in need".

Killings and inflammatory broadcasts condemned

After considering Mr. Boutros-Ghali's 29 December letter, the Council on 5 January condemned "in the strongest terms" persons responsible for killings and other violence in Burundi, saying it would consider the Secretary-General's proposals in light of reports of Mrs. Ogata's mission and from his Special Representative.

In a statement (S/PRST/1996/1) read by Council President Sir John

The Great Lakes Region



Weston, it appealed to Burundi's "political parties, military forces and elements of civil society" to respect and implement the 10 September 1994 Convention of Government and to support the Government institutions established in line with it. Neighbouring countries were urged to stop extremists from travelling abroad and to help identify and dismantle radio stations that "incite hatred and acts of genocide".

Concerned by recent attacks on international humanitarian organizations, which had led to the suspension of essential assistance and to the temporary withdrawal of their personnel, the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send High Commissioner Ogata to Burundi.

General Assembly action

There was a "need to increase preventive action in Burundi without delay, in particular through the presence of human rights experts and through human rights training programmes", in cooperation with the Government, the General Assembly declared on 22 December. In resolution 50/159, it also invited "political partners" in Burundi to organize a national debate on the country's basic problems, with a view to concluding a national covenant and adopting a constitution.

The Government and the international community were encouraged to implement the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region (Bujumbura, 15-17 February 1995). The signatories of the 29 November 1995 Cairo Declaration, in which they pledged to take concrete actions to advance peace, justice, reconciliation, stability and development in the region, were asked to abide by those commitments. The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to convene the Regional Conference on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

In a second resolution (50/58 K), also adopted on 22 December, the Assembly said the social, human rights and political crisis that had existed

since October 1993 was "endangering the national economy, as evidenced by the destruction of economic and social infrastructures, declining production and trade and, as a result, shrinking public revenue".

It invited States, UN institutions, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs "to continue to provide Burundi with economic, financial, material and technical assistance for economic recovery and for the reconstruction of the various infrastructures destroyed or damaged during the crisis and to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees". Burundi parties were called on not to hinder aid organizations, and to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel in the country.

Refugees' return 'vital'

The General Assembly based its actions in part on the Secretary-General's 11 October report (A/50/541 and Add.1), in which Mr. Boutros-Ghali warned that while the political instability of the past 16 months had not yet led to a "full-scale armed confrontation", due in large part to the international presence, the situation nevertheless remained "precarious".

As stability could not be achieved in the region if the problem of the 2 million refugees was not solved, full implementation by all countries of the Bujumbura Plan of Action, including the creation of adequate political and security conditions for the safe return of refugees, remained vital, he said.

The report also identified a number of actions being undertaken by the UN system for the economic recovery and reconstruction of Burundi: the UN Development Programme was helping the Government to plan reconstruction and rehabilitation projects; the UN Children's Fund was reinforcing the existing health network; the UN Centre for Human Rights had established a technical assistance project to encourage the development of an institutional infrastructure capable of creating conditions for the promotion of human rights and peace; a four-pronged assistance effort was being implemented by the World Health Or-

ganization; and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN was providing displaced persons, returnees and refugees with agricultural tool kits and seeds. Other assistance was being provided by the UNHCR, WFP and the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

'Smouldering civil war'

In his initial report of 14 November 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/16), the Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burundi, Paolo Sergio Pinheiro, warned that "a smouldering civil war is spreading further and further in Burundi and the situation has in particular deteriorated since the beginning of the year, and significantly so since May 1995".

A widespread climate of insecurity and fear affected both Hutus and Tutsis, he said, and this had led to a renewed outbreak of violence committed by extremists on both sides that was responsible for the deaths of three to four soldiers each day and some 200 civilians each week.

"Complete impunity is still enjoyed in the country", and the human rights situation revealed "an increasingly marked genocidal trend of a socio-ethnic nature", Mr. Pinheiro underscored.

The international community continued to demonstrate "an acute lack of interest and a serious inability to act in an effective and concerted manner", despite being "fully aware of all the horrors" committed in Burundi, particularly after the events of October 1993. In that regard, Mr. Pinheiro welcomed the setting up of the International Commission of Inquiry. By consistently failing to act, he said, the international community was "keeping alive and to a great extent contributing to the development of the radicalization" in the country.

New Special Representative

On 30 December, Marc Faguy of Canada assumed the functions of the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Burundi, replacing Ahmedou Ould Abdallah of Mauritania, who concluded a two-year term of office at the end of October. ■

Slow progress in implementation of peace agreement concerns Council

The Security Council on 8 February extended the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) until 8 May. By unanimously adopting resolution 1045 (1996), the Council expressed concern at numerous delays in the implementation of the 1994 Lusaka Protocol and reminded the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) of their obligations to consolidate the peace process. It urged them to maintain the cease-fire, conclude their talks on integration of the armed forces, undertake demining, and commence the integration of UNITA personnel into administrative and governmental institutions.

UNAVEM III was established in February 1995 to help the Government and UNITA restore peace and achieve national reconciliation. The Mission is to be concluded by February 1997 with the achievement of the objectives of the Lusaka Protocol. The Protocol, signed by both parties on 20 November 1994, reaffirmed the validity of the 31 May 1991 Peace Accords aimed at ending 20 years of civil conflict in Angola. It consists of eight annexes, covering all military, legal and political issues agreed to at the peace talks which preceded it. One of the main military issues concerns the quartering and demilitarization of UNITA's military forces.

The Council welcomed the efforts of the Angolan Government to cease offensive operations, withdraw its troops from offensive positions in the vicinity of UNITA quartering areas, release all prisoners of war registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, begin the quartering of the Rapid Reaction Police, and terminate the contracts of expatriate personnel. It expressed the expectation that the Government would continue its efforts towards the full implementation of its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol.

The Council also urged UNITA to

proceed immediately with the orderly, large-scale and verifiable movement of its troops to quartering areas and to conclude all quartering by 8 May. UNITA was also asked to extend full cooperation to UNAVEM III and release all remaining prisoners.

On 21 December, the Council had reiterated its concern at the slow progress in implementing the Lusaka Protocol by both parties and had stressed the importance of full implementation of all aspects of the peace process, including the political one.

In a statement by Council President Sergey Lavrov of the Russian Federation, it had also stressed that several important tasks that were to have been resolved in the early stages of the peace process remained incomplete. Among those were the exchange of detailed military information, the release of all prisoners, the redeployment of government troops near UNITA quartering areas, and the final resolution of the issue of mercenaries. The Council, in addressing the mercenary issue, had welcomed the Government's decision to terminate the contract of the firm involved and repatriate its personnel.

Quartering areas prepared

The Council had noted that the deployment of UNAVEM III troops was nearly complete and that four quartering areas were prepared to receive troops. It expressed disappointment at the slow pace at which the quartering process had proceeded and called upon UNITA and the Government to fulfil their commitments regarding the expeditious quartering and demobilization of former combatants.

Dismayed by the disruptions in the military talks between the parties, the Council urged them to conclude an equitable and practicable agreement without delay. It also deplored the threat to the safety of UNAVEM III personnel and reminded the parties,

particularly UNITA, to ensure the safety and security of all UNAVEM and international personnel.

The Secretary-General, in his report of 7 December (S/1995/1012), said it was encouraging that the Angolan people had been able to celebrate the first anniversary of the Lusaka Protocol with peace prevailing in the country.

It was important that the quartering process of UNITA troops be an uninterrupted and fully verifiable exercise of limited duration. Since it would be unrealistic and potentially dangerous to keep soldiers in cantonment for a long period, the subsequent phase of demobilization and integration must also be completed expeditiously.

Mine-laying persists

The Secretary-General added that it was unacceptable that violations of the cease-fire and military preparations, including mine-laying, still persisted a full year after the signing of the Lusaka Protocol. Human rights abuses and restrictions on the free circulation of the population also continued. That unsatisfactory state of affairs had been aggravated by propaganda attacks against the UN and threats to the safety and security of international personnel in Angola.

Both sides also had to honour their commitment to open roads, particularly along the main west-east supply routes, the report stated. Currently, most UNAVEM III personnel and supplies had to be transported by air, stretching the Mission's resources, and making it difficult to move UN troops to the eastern part of the country.

In an earlier presidential statement of 28 November, the Council had welcomed a 13 November joint communique issued by the Government of Angola and UNITA, in which they had reaffirmed their commitment to the peace process. The Council had stressed, however, that much remained to be done to fully implement the Lusaka Protocol, including strict

observance of the cease-fire, the continuation of the quartering process, the quartering of the Rapid Reaction Police, the return of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) to defensive positions, and the resolution of the modalities of military integration.

In another presidential statement, the Council on 12 October had again expressed concern at the delays in the peace process and underscored the peril that such delays might cause. It was also concerned at allegations of renewed laying of mines and demanded that all parties refrain from doing so.

The Secretary-General, in his 4 October report (S/1995/842), described

a number of positive developments in Angola, such as the meetings between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in Franceville, Gabon and in Brussels, during which they had agreed to continue discussions on the formation of the FAA. There was also a general understanding defining the powers and responsibilities of the two Vice-Presidents.

Those meetings and the continuing dialogue within the framework of the Joint Commission—the principal body charged with the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol—were generating greater mutual trust and confidence,

despite tension at lower levels in certain regions, the report stated. But it was important that the parties continued to demonstrate their political will by backing up their declarations with concrete actions on the ground.

UN Radio essential

While the Government's decision to allow UNAVEM III access to Angolan radio and television was a positive interim step, it could not be a substitute for the establishment of a UN radio. The Secretary-General called for the immediate provision of all relevant facilities, including the allocation of frequencies. ■

LIBERIA

Security Council adjusts mandate of Liberian Mission

The Security Council on 10 November adjusted the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) to include investigation of alleged cease-fire violations, monitoring of compliance with other military provisions of the peace agreements, and verification of the election process, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Under the terms of the adjusted mandate, UNOMIL will also: assist in the maintenance of assembly sites and in the implementation of a programme for demobilization of combatants; support humanitarian assistance activities; investigate and report on human rights violations; and exercise its good offices to support the efforts of ECOWAS and the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) to implement the peace agreements.

As it unanimously adopted resolution 1020 (1995), the Council also decided that the maximum number of military observers should be 160. It also called on the ECOWAS Monitor-



Security Council members voting to adopt resolution 1020 (1995) on UNOMIL.

ing Group (ECOMOG) to take the necessary action to provide security for UNOMIL observers and civilian staff. It stressed the need for close contacts and enhanced coordination between UNOMIL and ECOMOG at all levels.

Expressing concern over the cease-fire violations and delays in the process of disengagement of forces,

the Council urged the LNTG to avoid further violations and maintain the momentum of the peace process. The Council demanded that all factions in Liberia strictly respect the status of ECOMOG and UNOMIL personnel, as well as organizations and agencies delivering humanitarian assistance throughout Liberia. It further demanded that those factions facilitate

such deliveries and strictly abide by applicable rules of international humanitarian law.

In an 18 December progress report (*S/1995/1042*), Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the implementation of the 1995 Abuja Agreement was behind schedule, and the critical aspects of disarmament and demobilization were not likely to begin before January 1996. While that was a cause for concern, the delay should be seen in the context of the implementation timetable, which might have underestimated the delays involved in deploying the necessary personnel and equipment. The provision of logistical support for ECOMOG was especially complicated since it was essentially provided on a voluntary basis from non-ECOWAS countries.

Every effort had to be made to avoid further delays and all the parties involved had to cooperate fully. The first step was the complete disengagement of forces, the report stated.

Consultations with Ghana's President Rawlings

As part of his efforts to sustain the momentum of the peace process, the Secretary-General visited Ghana from 26 to 29 November for consultations with the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, who expressed his disappointment that the international community had not provided adequate assistance, especially for ECOMOG. Nonetheless, despite the lack of resources, the President had decided to increase Ghana's troop contribution.

Secretary-General visits Liberia

On 29 November, the Secretary-General visited Monrovia and met with members of the Liberian Council of State, who assured him of their commitment to the peace process, the report added. They stated that, despite their differences of a few months ago, they were now working together as a team and the Council of State was taking all decisions by consensus. They also assured the Secretary-General that they would not allow the peace

process to be derailed and were determined to hold presidential and national elections on schedule in August 1996. (Meanwhile it was reported that fighting had broken out again in the town of Tubmanburg, 45 miles west of Monrovia, and that members of ECOMOG had been killed. There were also reports of fighting in the south-eastern part of the country during January and February.)

Chronology

In a previous report of 23 October (*S/1995/881*), the Secretary-General said that the Liberian peace process had entered a new phase. Over the past two months, the parties had re-established the cease-fire, installed the Council of State and shown a greater willingness than in the past to take steps towards the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia. As a result, the opportunity existed for ending the civil war that had ravaged the country and brought great suffering to its people for nearly six years.

UNOMIL was established in September 1993 as an observer mission to support the work of a subregional peace-keeping operation. It was the first example of such cooperation. The Liberian parties had asked the UN to assume such responsibilities under the Cotonou Agreement of 25 July 1993. ECOMOG was entrusted with the primary role of implementing the Agreement and UNOMIL was mandated to observe and monitor the implementation procedures to verify their impartial application.

Since then, the parties have signed three supplementary agreements:

The Akosombo Agreement of 24 September 1994 called on the LNTG to play a more active role in ensuring that its provisions were carried out, and to collaborate with ECOMOG and UNOMIL in supervising and monitoring its implementation. The Agreement also stipulated that the Transitional Government would enter into a status-of-forces agreement with ECOWAS, and provided a more detailed plan for the disengagement, disarmament and demobilization of forces.

Under the Accra Agreement of 21 December 1994, the parties agreed that in the reorganization of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the police, immigration and other security agencies, combatants and non-combatants who had the necessary qualifications should be considered for recruitment. The Council of State would establish appropriate committees charged with determining the criteria for recruitment, taking advantage of the relevant expertise of ECOMOG and UNOMIL.

The Abuja Agreement of 19 August 1995 addressed mainly the composition of the Council of State and called on ECOWAS, the OAU and the UN to monitor the operations of the Ad Hoc Elections Commission. According to the Agreement, the cease-fire was to go into effect on 26 August and the factions were to disengage their forces during the period from 5 to 26 September. That was to be followed by the deployment of ECOMOG and UNOMIL from 2 October to 14 December, the movement of combatants into assembly sites from 9 November to 3 December, and the commencement of disarming on 1 December.

On 13 November, the Secretary-General appointed Major-General Mahmoud Talha of Egypt as Chief Military Observer of UNOMIL to replace Major-General Daniel I. Opande of Kenya.

Fund-raising conference

At a conference on assistance to Liberia, held in New York on 27 October, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali appealed to the international community to provide a solid commitment to support the peace process in that country. "Even a relatively small investment will bring a significant benefit not only to Liberia but to the region as a whole", he said.

A number of Governments and the European Union announced their intention to pledge some \$145 million for humanitarian assistance, demobilization, rehabilitation and for ECOMOG. ■

Secretary-General's efforts to resolve obstacles to referendum welcomed

The Security Council on 19 December welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to intensify consultations with the Government of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) in order to resolve their differences regarding the identification of applicants eligible to vote in the referendum on Western Sahara.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1033 (1955), the Council also requested the Secretary-General to report urgently on the results of those consultations. In the event that they failed to reach agreement, he was requested to provide the Council with options for its consideration, including a programme for the orderly withdrawal of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's report of 24 November (S/1995/986) as a framework to accelerate and complete the identification process. It called on the two parties to cooperate with the Secretary-General and MINURSO to implement all the other aspects of the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara in accordance with relevant resolutions.

Secretary-General's report

The Secretary-General stated in his report that the identification of voters in Western Sahara had virtually come to a halt and a new approach was needed to carry the process forward. He said the basic obstacle to the process related to certain tribal groups and to persons not resident in the Territory. The identification involved the participation of a sheikh or an alternate from both the Moroccan Government and POLISARIO. However, the parties were either unable or unwilling to make sheikhs available at given times and places.

The Secretary-General proposed that when two sheikhs or alternates

were present, one from each side, identification take place as usual. When one party did not provide a sheikh, for whatever reason, identification would take place on the basis of appropriate documentation, with the assistance of the one sheikh present. If neither party made available a sheikh, identification would be based on documentary evidence only.

If identification was allowed to proceed without interruption, 12 centres should be able to complete the process within four months at a rate of 36,000 applicants per month, the Secretary-General said. "Should it fail to proceed with the necessary speed, it will be my intention, as requested by the Security Council ... to present for the consideration of the Council alternative options, including the possibility of MINURSO's withdrawal", he added.

Background

The Settlement Plan was accepted by the two parties on 30 August 1988 and approved by the Council on 27 June 1990 in its resolution 658 (1990). It entailed the holding of a referendum, without military or administrative constraints, to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

In his report, the Secretary-General warned that neither party was likely to be satisfied with his proposal. Morocco wanted to limit the role of documentary evidence and give privilege to that of oral testimony. POLISARIO considered that the new approach would allow for the introduction of applicants who had no ties in Western Sahara. The Secretary-General, however, concluded that it was the only way the process could be carried forward.

In a 27 October letter (S/1995/924), the Secretary-General had informed the Council of decisions taken to accelerate the identification process, in response to the concern expressed by

the Council over the delays in its completion.

In the case of three tribal groupings and of all identification outside the Territory and the camps, identification of applicants could be assisted by the sheikh who was present. However, the applicant's claim for inclusion in the electoral roll would be evaluated on the basis of documentary evidence such as: a birth certificate issued by the competent authorities in the country of the applicant's birth to substantiate that he or she was the child of a father born in the Territory or had other links with the Territory; and a document issued by the competent authorities within the internationally recognized frontiers of the Territory before 1974 to substantiate the father's birth in the Territory.

Algeria's complaint

In a 6 December letter to the Council President (S/1995/1011), Algeria, in its capacity as an official observer, said the suggestions made in the Secretary-General's 24 November report were "a serious backsliding" from the very explicit commitments and assurances given to it by the Secretary-General and his Acting Special Representative, and were "a flagrant reversal" with respect to his 27 October letter to the Council.

"To open the door to a possible modification of the pool of eligible voters through the introduction of tens of thousands of new voters cannot but satisfy the party to the conflict which is advocating a confirmatory referendum", the letter added.

In other action, the General Assembly, in resolution 50/36 of 6 December, reiterated its support for a free, fair and impartial referendum in conformity with the Settlement Plan. The Assembly also expressed concern at the insufficient progress made towards the fulfilment of the Plan and expressed the hope that direct talks between the two parties would soon resume. ■

Assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin condemned

The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel on 4 November at a pro-Government rally in Tel Aviv—an “outrageous act of terror” which had struck “one of the greatest leaders in Israel’s history”—was condemned in the “strongest possible terms” by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

“I pay tribute to the wisdom and vision of Prime Minister Rabin, whose unswerving commitment to his country, and whose recognition of the need for Israelis and Arabs alike to put behind the hostility and bloodshed which had poisoned the region for decades, led to the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan and the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)”, the Secretary-General stated on 4 November. “Prime Minister Rabin will forever be remembered for his courageous leadership these past three years.”

In a message to the special commemorative meeting on 5 December at Headquarters, the Secretary-General said: “There are times that call for greatness: for vision, for courage, for love of humankind. Of all those we call great, the peacemakers are the greatest. ... Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was working for peace on the day that he was killed. He was singing for peace on the night when he was so viciously struck down.”

His loss conveyed the “horrific truth that those who dare to pursue peace walk in the way of terrible danger. And the further they go upon this

path, the greater the risk that they run”, he stressed. But that cowardly act could not stop progress towards the goal of peace. “Yitzhak Rabin in his death still shows us the way. ... And we are uplifted by his memory to bear the beacon of peace forward, so that tomorrow will bring the better world he so valiantly sought”, Mr. Boutros-Ghali declared.

General Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral of Portugal said Yitzhak Rabin had been “assassinated for believing in a future without bloodshed, a future of tolerance and coexistence”. He had paid a “very high price for his pursuit of peace for all”, but his example would “live on to inspire others”.

Gad Yaacobi of Israel declared: “With Rabin’s assassination, we lost a great statesman, a courageous soldier in both war and peace, a fine human being, a devoted son of Israel, the Jewish people and mankind. ... Most of all,

he was a soldier for peace who fell in the line of duty.”

Madeleine K. Albright of the United States said that “building the future is no longer within the power of Yitzhak Rabin; that responsibility rests with us”. President Clinton, President Yeltsin and other European leaders had expressed their continued support for Arab-Israeli reconciliation. “So, we are confident that the peace process will move forward”, she stated. “But we know, as well, that we have suffered a grievous loss.”

Sergey V. Lavrov of the Russian Federation said that the life which had been “cut short by a fanatic’s bullet” highlighted the need to im-

plement the Israeli-Palestinian agreements and “speed up the refashioning of the Middle East” in the image of the peace process to which Mr. Rabin had devoted himself.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo of Spain reiterated the Union’s firm rejection of terrorism and intolerance. “Yitzhak Rabin: your life has been irrationally cut short, but your ideals persist and continue to light our way”, he stated.

Assembly action

The fiftieth General Assembly, in welcoming the Middle East peace process and expressing its full support for the results achieved so far, stressed (*resolution 50/21*) the need for a “rapid progress on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations” and called for the “timely and scrupulous implementation” of the accords reached



Yitzhak Rabin in the General Assembly Hall at a Special Commemorative Meeting on the 50th Anniversary of the UN.

towards the negotiation of a final settlement (50/84 H).

By another text (50/29 A), it expressed hope that, "in the light of the recent positive developments", the policies and practices of Israel, which violated the human rights of the Palestinians, would be "brought to an end immediately".

Overall, some 25 texts relating to Palestine and the situation in the Middle East were adopted.

Council resolution 1024: UNDOF extended

The mandate of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)—deployed since June 1974—was renewed by the Security Council on 28 November for another six months, until 31 May 1996.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1024 (1995), the Council also called on the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973), which had urged for, among other things: the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in 1967; termination of all claims and states of belligerency; and acknowledgement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every State in the area.

Following the resolution's adoption, Council President Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman said that the Secretary-General's report (S/1995/952) stating that "despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached", reflected the view of the Security Council.

In a related development, Japan was added on 8 December to the list of Member States providing troops to UNDOF.

Important progress

The past year had seen "important progress in the Middle East peace process", the Secre-

tary-General reported (A/50/725-S/1995/930) on 7 November.

“
Situation
continues to be
potentially
dangerous
”

The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed on 28 September 1995, represented a "significant step forward" in the implementation of the September 1993 Declaration of Principles, he said. It provided a "solid basis for the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, a goal that has long been sought by the United Nations".

The Secretary-General hoped that those developments, together with the

ongoing implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord, would "generate momentum for progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Labanese tracks of the Middle East peace talks, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict".

The UN would continue to support the peace process, "politically and economically, in order to reinforce what has been achieved in the course of negotiations and help build the foundations for a new post-conflict Middle East", he assured. It already actively participated in the multilateral negotiations on regional economic, security, environment, water and refugee issues, and its agencies and programmes were "doing their utmost to assist the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank", the Secretary-General stressed.

At a meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on 29 November, commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with them, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, in a message, stated that the Day symbolized the UN's ongoing responsibility towards the Palestinians. ■



UNDOF members at work on the Golan Heights.

Iraq's weapons programme arouses concern in UN bodies

The General Assembly on 1 November expressed deep concern that since 1991 Iraq had withheld information from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about its nuclear-weapons programme, in violation of its obligations under Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991), and stressed the need for Iraq to cooperate fully with the Agency in achieving the complete implementation of the relevant Council resolutions.

The Assembly took that action by adopting resolution 50/9 by a vote of 144 to 1 (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), with 8 abstentions. The text was adopted following the defeat, by a vote of 95 to 8, of an amendment proposed by Iraq, by which the Assembly would have noted that the IAEA report had stated that Iraq's nuclear-weapons programme had been, for all practical purposes, destroyed, removed or rendered harmless.

Under Council resolution 687 (1991), the Director General of the IAEA had been requested to carry out inspections in Iraq to determine the scope and status of its clandestine nuclear-weapons programme and to destroy, remove or render harmless materials and equipment specified in that resolution.

IAEA Director General's report

Introducing its annual report (A/50/360), IAEA Director General Hans Blix said that the Agency had recently received additional information on Iraq's former nuclear-weapons programme. "What can be concluded at this stage is that Iraq's withholding of information, documents and materials clearly constitutes a breach of Iraqi obligations under the Security Council resolutions and that the crash programme was in violation of the safeguards agreement" and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), he said.

The IAEA reported that during 1994 it had carried out five inspections in Iraq and had destroyed, removed and rendered harmless items requiring such action under Council resolutions.

In another report of 14 December (S/1995/1040), Mr. Blix stated that in August 1995 Iraq had given the Agency a number of documents pertaining to its 1990 crash programme to divert

been salvaged during and after the Persian Gulf War and removed to other locations.

Special Commission report

On 17 December, the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) monitoring the disarmament of Iraq reported (S/1995/1038) that that country's attitude towards cooperation with the



Weapons destruction by UNSCOM.

highly enriched uranium, contained in research reactor fuel that was subject to IAEA safeguards, for use in its clandestine nuclear-weapons programme.

Those and other documents that Iraq claimed had been concealed on property belonging to the family of General Hussein Kamel (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law who had defected to Jordan) had been catalogued and transferred to IAEA headquarters in Vienna for analysis. They consisted of almost a million pages.

During follow-up inspections in September and October 1995, Iraq had handed over additional technical documents relating to its nuclear-weapons programme, which were being urgently evaluated by the IAEA, the report added. Those documents contained detailed lists of equipment and materials utilized in the clandestine nuclear-weapons programme that had

Commission and the Council had "changed from one where ultimatums with deadlines were delivered to one of promises of complete cooperation and transparency, without time-limits".

The Special Commission was set up under Council resolution 687 (1991) to supervise the disposal of Iraq's biological, chemical and missile capabilities and to cooperate with the IAEA with respect to the disposal of its nuclear-weapons programme. Its report stated that Iraq had admitted it had not taken all actions required of it under resolution 687, but insisted that its declared policy now was to do so as fast as possible.

Iraq had also admitted that as late as August 1995, it had been withholding important information from the Commission, but was now in the course of disclosing what had been concealed, the report added. After having maintained for a number of years that all

documentation relating to its proscribed programmes had been destroyed, Iraq had provided the Commission and the IAEA with substantial quantities of documentation and was continuing to do so.

On 16 November, Iraq had submitted to the Special Commission more than 2,500 pages of declaration, in which it had given details of its dealings with its main foreign suppliers in the missile area. It had also confirmed that it had used a large radar in proscribed activities. That radar had been destroyed by the Commission under protest.

Iraq had not provided original documents to account for the expenditure of all imported proscribed missile systems, the report added. Its account concerning missile warheads, including those for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction, lacked consistency and the necessary evidence for verification. For example, Iraq had not given any evidence to support its claim concerning its production figures for indigenous warheads, and there were significant gaps in its accounting for such major components for operational missiles as guidance and control systems, liquid propellant fuels and ground support equipment.

The Commission was still studying the full, final and complete disclosures with respect to the material balance in such areas as imported and indigenously manufactured missile components and equipment for production activities. However, it believed that Iraq was still withholding important documents related to proscribed activities, the report stated.

In view of those major deficiencies in such disclosures, Iraq's insistence that the document submitted on 16 November was the final and formal disclosure would complicate the verification process. The Special Commission would, however, work as quickly as possible, without sacrificing thoroughness, to verify Iraq's declaration.

Iraq had recently admitted that after the adoption of resolution 687 it had conducted a covert programme to develop and produce a surface-to-surface missile, which would be capable of

prohibited ranges, the report added. If further investigation proved that to be correct, there would have been a clear violation of that resolution.

In the area of chemical weapons, Iraq had acknowledged it had produced more VX agent than had previously been declared, the report revealed. It had earlier stated that only 260 kilograms had been produced in 1988, but had now admitted that 1.8 tonnes had been produced and a further 1.5 tonnes in 1990. It had stated that purity and stabilization problems had caused the programme to be abandoned in 1990 in favour of producing Sarin and Cyclosarin.

The Special Commission had conducted its first night-time inspection of a chemical site and was to expand the chemical analytical capabilities of the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre, the report said.

In the area of biological weapons, Iraq had provided in November a draft declaration following on from its earlier disclosures that it had a comprehensive offensive biological-weapons programme. However, the draft contained major deficiencies in structure and content. Serious gaps and omissions existed in the declaration and in the documentary support.

Evidence available to the Commission had established that the biological weapons programme was more extensive than Iraq had admitted. Moreover, the information in the draft did not match the Commission's findings in a number of important aspects. The Commission continued to believe that important documents were still being withheld by Iraq, despite assurances of full cooperation from its Government.

Action by Sanctions Committee

The Security Council Committee set up under resolution 661 (1990) to monitor sanctions against Iraq had proposed (S/1995/1017) a mechanism on notification by both Iraq and its supplier States of planned supplies of dual-use items to Iraq and on inspection of those items at the end-user site.

In a 6 December statement, Sanctions Committee Chairman Tono Eitel of Germany said that the export/

import mechanism had been designed to complement other elements of ongoing monitoring and verification in order to create an effective system with minimal additional costs for legitimate trade and industry.

UNIKOM

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appointed Major-General Gian Giuseppe Santillo of Italy as Force Commander of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) effective 1 December 1995. He succeeded Major-General Krishna Thapa of Nepal.

On 4 October, the Security Council accepted the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained, citing its contribution to calm on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

UN Compensation Commission

The UN Compensation Commission at two meetings in Geneva approved more than \$3 million worth of claims by persons affected by the Persian Gulf war of 1990-1991.

At the eighteenth session of its Governing Council (9-11 October), the Commission approved some \$771 million for 217,513 claimants from 67 countries and three international organizations filing Palestinian claims.

At its nineteenth session (11-13 December), it decided to pay \$2.45 million to 719 claimants in category B (serious personal injury and death). The only category B claims pending are those of approximately 550 missing persons, mostly Kuwaitis, whose fate is still unknown.

UN Guards

Two UN Guards, from Poland and from the Philippines, were killed in northern Iraq on 7 December and a third from Nepal was injured when a fuel oil tank exploded while they drove past a gas station in Shaqlawa, 55 kilometres north-east of Erbil. The matter was being investigated. There were 152 UN Guards serving in Iraq before the accident. The Guards constitute an innovative approach to security issues arising out of the implementation of the Humanitarian Programme conducted in northern Iraq. ■

UNFICYP mandate renewed

The mandate of the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was renewed by the Security Council until 30 June 1996.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1032 (1995) on 19 December, the Council also called on the military authorities on both sides to ensure that no incidents occurred along the buffer zone and to extend their full cooperation to the Force. It requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the structure and strength of UNFICYP, with a view to its possible restructuring, and to present any new considerations he might have in that regard.

The Council further welcomed UNFICYP's humanitarian review of the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots and the Maronites living in the northern part of the island and of Turkish Cypriots in the southern part.

It supported UNFICYP's recommendations for improvements, which included the lifting of all restrictions on freedom of movement between the two parts of the island for Maronites

in the north, land travel by Greek Cypriots within the northern part of Cyprus, and off-shore fishing by the Greek Cypriots of the Karpas region. Another recommendation was an independent and comprehensive review of the policies and procedures of the Cyprus police, particularly in their dealings with Turkish Cypriots in the south.

Concerned with the continuing modernization and upgrading of military forces and the lack of progress towards

a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops in Cyprus, the Council urged once again all concerned to commit themselves to such a reduction, as well as to reducing defence spending, to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces.

The Council acted after reviewing the Secretary-General's report of 10 December (*S/1995/1020 and Add.1*), in which he stated that UNFICYP's presence on the island was indispensable. He expressed concern at the

equipment, while the National Guard, though weaker than the Turkish forces, had continued its comprehensive upgrading programme.

The Secretary-General noted that the high attendance at the bicomunal events organized by UNFICYP for the fiftieth anniversary of the UN demonstrated that there was a strong desire on the part of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots to develop contacts and mutual understanding. He added that the Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the northern part of the island were



An Austrian peace-keeper keeps watch in Athna.

excessive levels of military forces and armaments in Cyprus and at the rate at which these were being strengthened.

Neither side had heeded the Council's repeated calls for a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops and in defence spending, the report said. It had also not been possible to make progress on modest measures aimed at reducing confrontation between the two sides along the cease-fire lines. The Turkish forces had continued to upgrade their

prevented from leading the normal life they had been promised under the agreement reached by the two sides in Vienna on 2 August 1975.

While welcoming the limited measures announced by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to improve this situation, much more needed to be done. UNFICYP would also follow up with the Government of Cyprus on measures to eliminate any discrimination against or harassment of the Turkish Cypriots living in the south. ■

Peace Agreements bring a 'long-delayed birth of hope'

Multinational Force set up in Bosnia to replace UNPROFOR

"This is a time of hope", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared on 13 December. The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed on 14 December in Paris by the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

the United States-led Balkan peace talks (1-21 November)—on the foundations laid by many peacemakers, especially the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, and Steering Committee Co-Chairmen Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen—came after "more than three hard years" of UN and international

threaten the implementation of the other, he warned.

On 21 November, in welcoming the accords, the Secretary-General stated that they "give us hope that peace can now become a reality in the war-torn lands of the former Yugoslavia". As he thanked United States President William J. Clinton for his peace initia-



Balkan leaders, seated from left: Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina pass peace treaty documents for signing in Paris on 14 December 1995. Looking on, standing from left: United States President Bill Clinton, French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, British Prime Minister John Major and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

(Serbia and Montenegro), as well as the 12 November Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium—mostly Serb-populated areas in Croatia—offered "real hope of bringing to an end the tragic conflict" in the former Yugoslavia, he stated.

The accords, "brilliantly constructed" in Dayton, Ohio, in the course of

community's involvement in the former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General observed.

Provided the parties allowed their implementation, those agreements would "end the terrible suffering" inflicted on the people of both Bosnia and Croatia, and remove a "major source of instability in Europe". However, failure to implement one would

tive, which had "brought the contending parties to the negotiating table", Mr. Boutros-Ghali pledged that the UN "will do all it can, within mandates authorized by the Security Council, to help end the suffering and to return life to normal".

On 11 October, he had expressed deep satisfaction that the 5 October cease-fire agreement was to come into

YUGOSLAV CRISIS

effect at 0001 hours on 12 October "throughout the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the signing by both the Bosnian parties of written declarations to that effect today". Mr. Boutros-Ghali also urged the parties to scrupulously respect the ceasefire and to seize that opportunity to "advance decisively towards a peace settlement".

On 23 November, he reported (S/1995/987) that since the ceasefire's entry into force, the situation in Bosnia had improved significantly.

To help ensure compliance with the Bosnian Peace Agreement, deployment of a 60,000-personnel multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR) was authorized by the Security Council on 15 December. Carl Bildt of the European Union was named High Representative, as the "final authority in theatre" regarding the civilian implementation of the Peace Agreement.

On 20 December, IFOR took over from the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)—originally established by resolution 743 (1992) of 21 February 1992—whose mandate was thus terminated. On 21 December, a UN civilian police force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a UN civilian office were set up.

Council and Assembly actions

Throughout October, November and December, the Security Council continued to keep the situation in the former Yugoslavia under constant review. During that period, it met formally on 13 occasions to consider the subject, adopting 10 resolutions and issuing 4 presidential statements.

The General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, adopted a number of resolutions relating to the former Yugoslavia, namely: on the human rights situation in Bosnia, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) (50/193); violations of human rights in Kosovo—a mostly Albanian-populated region in the FRY—(50/190); and rape and abuse of women in the former Yugoslavia (50/192).

From 1 October through 16 December, or until the IFOR was established, some 582 violations of the ban on mili-

tary flights, imposed under Council resolution 816 (1993), were reported—677 less than in the previous three months. That brought to 7,552 the total number of apparent violations since monitoring began in November 1992 under resolution 781 (1992).

With regard to Croatia, the Secretary-General on 13 December recommended the establishment of a "well-armed division-seized force" to maintain peace and security and ensure demilitarization of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

The Council on 22 November, by adopting resolutions 1021 (1995) and 1022 (1995), lifted the embargo on deliveries of weapons and military equipment to the territory of the former Yugoslavia, imposed by resolution 713 (1991) of 25 September 1991, and indefinitely suspended the economic sanctions against the FRY (Serbia and Montenegro).

Recognition for Special Representative Akashi

On 30 October, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations Kofi Annan was named temporarily as the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Former Yugoslavia and, in that context, to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Former Special Representative Yasushi Akashi who, according to Mr. Boutros-Ghali, "deserves the sincere thanks and grateful recognition of the international community", was to return to New York as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser.

Flag of FYROM raised at UN Headquarters

On 21 October, the flag of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), a UN member since April 1993, was hoisted at UN Headquarters. In hailing the event, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said the 13 September Interim Accord between the FYROM and Greece, negotiated under UN auspices, represented an "important step towards the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues in the region". The raising of the flag reflected that "improved understanding" and

symbolized "friendship in the region and within the international community," he stressed.

On 15 December, representatives of Greece and the FYROM met with Mr. Vance to discuss various aspects related to the further implementation of the Interim Accord. The meeting was reported to have taken place in a "cordial and businesslike atmosphere and lasted for several hours".

Secretary-General praises UNPROFOR

In strongly disputing the allegation that the UN involvement in the former Yugoslavia had "not been a success", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali on 13 December stated (S/1995/1031) that its original and primary mission—to protect humanitarian activities—had been successfully carried out.

In particular, UNPROFOR deserved credit for its "successes in negotiating and helping to implement cease-fires and other military arrangements, often of a local nature, without which many people alive today would be dead and material destruction would have been even greater", he stressed.

The price for the UN had, however, been high, since "too many United Nations personnel had been killed or suffered crippling injuries", the Secretary-General noted. The Yugoslav conflicts had dominated the Organization's peace and security agenda and "distorted its peacemaking and peace-keeping efforts at the expense of other parts of the world". In August 1995, for example, the former Yugoslavia had accounted for nearly 70 per cent of peace-keepers worldwide and over two thirds of peace-keeping costs, Mr. Boutros-Ghali added.

On the other hand, the UN and its Member States, he noted, had "learned many lessons" in Bosnia, whose "benefit will become apparent in our future peacemaking and peace-keeping endeavours".

In paying tribute, "not in a routine way but in heartfelt recognition of dedicated service and sacrifice", to all those men and women who had contributed to the "long-delayed birth of hope" in the former Yugoslavia and

who had "risked, and too often given, their lives in the largest peace-keeping operation ever deployed" by the UN, Mr. Boutros-Ghali declared: "History will confirm that what they ... achieved is far greater than they receive credit for in some quarters today."

Peace signed in Paris

In a historic breakthrough, the Presidents of the three Balkan States—Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic of the FRY (Serbia and Montenegro)—formally signed the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 14 December in Paris.

Standing behind them at the Élysée Palace were the leaders of the Contact Group nations—President Clinton of the United States, President Jacques Chirac of France, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin of the Russian Federation.

"The signing ceremony, which has brought us together here in Paris, crowns the efforts of all those who have been working for peace in Bosnia", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali declared.

Since the conclusive negotiations conducted in Dayton, Ohio and the subsequent London Conference held on 8 and 9 December, "all the interested parties have demonstrated the extent to which the road to peace requires patience and tenacity, open-mindedness and determination", he went on. "We can therefore be filled with hope at the thought that, from now on, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member State of the United Nations, will at last be able to live in peace and, I hope, in dialogue", the Secretary-General stressed.

However, the results achieved would, "no doubt, not have been possible" without all those men and women who, for more than three years, had "devoted themselves, and sometimes sacrificed their lives", in the service of the UN. "The Blue Helmets, along with all the States that contributed troops and *matériel* to this difficult

mission, deserve the recognition of the international community", he stated.

"From peace-keeping to humanitarian action, through many often unprecedented and perilous missions, the soldiers of the United Nations have given diplomats the time they needed to complete their work", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said. It was a "tribute to the greatness of the United Nations that it

values of democracy, tolerance and respect for human rights".

While noting the "historic importance of the successes achieved in recent weeks", the European Council was "fully aware of the magnitude of the task still to be carried out". It was "not the time to relax our efforts"; on the contrary, it was necessary to show perseverance and courage, it stressed.



Negotiators at the Bosnian peace talks, from left to right: Assistant Secretary for European and Canadian Affairs Richard C. Holbrooke; Croatian President Tudjman; Bosnian President Izetbegovic; United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the FRY President Milosevic.

carries out the most thankless tasks for the international community".

In declaring the UN's willingness to "do everything to assist all parties concerned" to implement the Peace Agreement, the Secretary-General observed that the Organization was "first and foremost the mirror of the will of the international community". It "can do nothing if it does not receive the resources needed to fulfil its mission".

The European Council on 16 December, in welcoming the Bosnian Peace Agreement as an "extremely important step forward, not only for the peoples in the former Yugoslavia but also for the international community as a whole", stated (A/50/833-S/1995/1048) that the Yugoslav conflict remained the "most difficult test for the transition from a divided Europe to a new Europe based on shared

Peace Agreement

In signing the Bosnian Peace Agreement, the three Balkan States undertook a broad commitment to: conduct their relations in accordance with the UN Charter, as well as with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and other documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; fully respect the "sovereign equality of one another"; settle disputes by peaceful means; and "refrain from any action, by threat or use of force or otherwise, against the territorial integrity or political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina or any other State".

In an important breakthrough, the FRY and Bosnia recognized each other as "sovereign independent States within their international borders".

The FRY also signed on behalf of the Republika Srpska, or the Bosnian

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Serbs, those parts of the accord that concerned them, with the obligation to strictly implement it.

The 11-article agreement, with 11 annexes (A/50/790-S/1995/999), covered: military aspects of the peace settlement; regional stabilization measures; delineation of an Inter-Entity Boundary Line between the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, as well as related issues; holding of democratic elections; Constitution; arbitration; human rights; assistance to refugees and displaced persons; establishment of a Commission to Preserve National Monuments; a Commission on Public Corporations; civilian implementation of the peace settlement; and an International Police Task Force.

The parties agreed, among other things, to: a cessation of hostilities, which had begun with their 5 October accord; withdrawal of forces "not of local origin" from Bosnia; phased redeployment of forces around Sarajevo, Gorazde and other locations; withdraw-

al of UNPROFOR and deployment of IFOR; establishment of a Joint Military Commission; and prisoner exchanges.

Full cooperation with "all entities involved in implementation of this peace settlement", including the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, was pledged. The parties also agreed that all final decisions concerning military aspects of the implementation "shall be made by the IFOR Commander".

With regard to civilian issues, a wide range of activities was foreseen. Those included: continuation of the humanitarian aid effort for as long as necessary; rehabilitation of infrastructure and economic reconstruction; establishment of political and constitutional institutions; promotion of respect for human rights and the return of displaced persons and refugees; and holding of free and fair elections.

To facilitate their own efforts to those ends, the parties requested the designation of a High Representative, who was to mobilize and coordinate all

civilian activities and be the final authority regarding the civilian implementation of the peace settlement.

Also detailed in the Agreement were arrangements for civilian law enforcement, which included a request by the parties that the Security Council establish a UN International Police Task Force (IPTF), which would monitor law enforcement activities and facilities, advise and train law enforcement personnel, and respond to requests for assistance.

London Conference

A Peace Implementation Conference was held on 8 and 9 December in London, in order to mobilize the international community behind what the event's participants called a "new start for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

In hailing the Bosnian Peace Agreement, the delegates stated that it would mark a "further important stage" in bringing about recognition between the States in the region and "initiate promotion of good neighbourly relations between them".

Among other things, the Conference agreed (S/1995/1029) that peace in Bosnia should result in: the creation of a climate of stability and security, and the achievement of a durable and lasting political settlement; establishment of new political and constitutional arrangements that would bring the country together "within a framework of democracy and the rule of law"; protection and promotion of human rights and the early return of refugees and displaced persons; establishment of an open, free market economy; a "kick start to economic reconstruction"; normalization of Bosnia's relations with its neighbours, the region and the rest of the world community; creation of a "direct and dynamic contractual relationship" between Bosnia and the European Union "within the framework of a regional approach"; successful implementation of the Basic Agreement on Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium; and "important economic opportunities" for countries neighbouring the former Yugoslavia.

Photo/L. Bianco



Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali meets with his top advisers to coordinate the UN's position in advance of the London Conference. From left to right: Mr. Boutros-Ghali, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia Kofi Annan.

Also, a Peace Implementation Council (PIC), composed of all States, international organizations and agencies attending the London Conference, was set up to "subsume the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia", whose objectives had been met with the Peace Agreement.

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, in addressing the Conference on 8 December, recalled that in 1992 "we met here in London to unite the peacemaking efforts" of the European Union with those of the UN. In July 1995, "we met here at a turning point in our efforts to end the fighting. Today we are meeting to finalize the means to ensure a lasting peace for the peoples affected by this war", he stated. "Let us hope that this is the last time we must meet to consider the terrible tragedy of Bosnia and Herzegovina", he stressed.

Resolution 1031: IFOR established; transfer of authority from UNPROFOR

The Security Council on 15 December, in determining that the situation in the former Yugoslavia continued to constitute a "threat to international peace and security" and that the "unique, extraordinary and complex character" of the situation in Bosnia required an "exceptional response", au-

thorized Member States to establish a multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR), under unified command and control, to ensure compliance with the 14 December Bosnian Peace Agreement.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1031 (1995), the Council also stressed that the parties to the Agreement "shall be held equally responsible" for such compliance, and "equally subject to such enforcement action by IFOR as may be necessary" to ensure the accord's implementation and the IFOR protection.

In demanding that they respect the security and freedom of movement of IFOR—to be composed of ground, air and maritime units from NATO and non-NATO nations—and of other international personnel, the Council recognized the Force's right to take "all necessary measures to defend itself from attack or threat of attack".

As for UNPROFOR, its mandate was to be terminated on the date on which the Secretary-General reported the transfer of authority to IFOR, the Council ruled. Nevertheless, the civilian police, demining, civil affairs and other personnel that might be required were to remain in the area.

The Council expressed its "warmest appreciation to all UNPROFOR personnel" who had served the cause of

peace and paid tribute to those who had given their lives or suffered serious injuries in that service.

In stressing the "need for early action in Sarajevo to create confidence between the communities", the Council asked the Secretary-General to ensure the early redeployment of elements of UN civilian police from Croatia to Sarajevo.

On 20 December, the Secretary-General informed (S/1995/1050) the Council that the transfer of authority from UNPROFOR to IFOR had taken place in Sarajevo "today at 11 a.m. local time". It meant that the "authority to take measures conferred upon States" by relevant Council resolutions related to, among other things, humanitarian deliveries to Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia, the use of force to protect those convoys and UNPROFOR, and a ban on military flights in Bosnian air space, "shall be terminated", as well as the provisions of resolution 824 (1993) and subsequent resolutions regarding safe areas, the Secretary-General said.

Cooperative effort needed

On 13 December, in hailing the Member States' decision that the "vast task of helping to implement the Peace Agreement" in Bosnia should not be entrusted to the UN alone, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed that "only a cooperative effort between many international organizations and Member States can generate the skills and resources and, above all, the political will required to end the fighting and start building the peace".

UN contribution to that common effort could be, among others, in the humanitarian relief and return of refugees, where the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was "well placed to continue and develop the work it has been doing from the outset", and in civilian police, where the parties had asked the UN to "deploy a UN civilian police force greater than any previously seen", he reported (S/1995/1031).

"I am confident that the United Nations has the ability to perform the tasks assigned to it, provided that the parties cooperate and provided that

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Member States make available the resources that will be necessary", the Secretary-General stressed.

Resolution 1035:

UN police force set up

A UN civilian police force in Bosnia and Herzegovina—named the International Police Task Force (IPTF)—and a UN civilian office were established by the Security Council on 21 December.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1035 (1995), the Council also decided that both IPTF and the civilian office would be operative for a period of one year from the transfer of authority to IFOR, as called for in the Bosnian Peace Agreement.

Also, noting with satisfaction that both establishments would be "under the authority of the Secretary-General and subject to coordination and guid-

October, "provided that full gas and electrical utility service is restored to Sarajevo", was welcomed by the Security Council on 6 October.

In a statement by Council President Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, it welcomed "all efforts to restore such service" and called upon the parties to fully cooperate with such efforts and comply with all cease-fire provisions "once they come into effect".

The Council strongly urged the parties to negotiate in good faith on the basis of the 8 September Geneva Declarations of Principles and the 26 September Further Agreed Principles. In addition, the Council welcomed the 3 October agreement by Croatia and the local Croatian Serb authorities in eastern Slavonia to Guiding Basic Principles for Negotiations.

On 12 October, in welcoming the entry into force of the Bosnian cease-

the movements of the displaced population in the areas of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad, and acts of ethnic cleansing committed in the Banja Luka and Prijedor areas, especially that non-Serb men and boys of draft age were being "taken away by Bosnian Serb and other paramilitary forces".

In urging their immediate release, the Council also demanded that the Bosnian Serb party grant immediate and unimpeded access for UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) personnel to all areas of concern to "visit and register any persons detained against their will".

Resolutions 1025, 1026, 1027: UNCRO, UNPROFOR, UNPREDEP

On 30 November, the Security Council unanimously acted on the status of what the Secretary-General called the "three separate, but inter-linked" UN peace-keeping missions in the former Yugoslavia.

By resolution 1025 (1995), it decided to terminate the mandate of the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) "after an interim period ending on 15 January 1996 or when the Council has decided on the deployment, including on the necessary period for the transfer of authority, of the transitional peace-keeping force ... whichever is sooner".

In adopting another text—resolution 1026 (1995)—the Council extended the UNPROFOR mandate for a two-month period, until 31 January, pending its further action with regard to the implementation of the Bosnian Peace Agreement.

Finally, by resolution 1027 (1995), the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the FYROM was extended for a six-month period, until 30 May. In taking that action, the Council, while welcoming UNPREDEP's positive role and paying tribute to its personnel in the performance of their mandate, also recalled its "concern about possible developments which could undermine confidence and stability" in the FYROM or threaten its territory.



UN Photo/Janel Schroeder

Peace-keepers on a routine visit to weapons-collection sites near Kiseljak.

ance as appropriate by the High Representative", the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to appoint a UN Coordinator.

KEY EVENTS

Bosnian cease-fire

The 5 October agreement by the Bosnian parties to a cease-fire, including by terminating all hostile military activities throughout Bosnia as of 10

fire agreements, the Council expressed gratitude to all those who had negotiated the accord, to UNPROFOR and "others who, often at risk to their own lives, have made possible, with the cooperation of all the parties, the restoration of gas and electricity supplies to the inhabitants of Sarajevo, enabling them to live in more decent conditions".

The Council was particularly concerned about new reports related to

Resolution 1023: Eastern Slavonia

The Security Council on 22 November, in welcoming the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium between Croatia and the local Serbs, declared its readiness to expeditiously consider the parties' request contained therein to establish a Transitional Administration and authorize an appropriate international force "to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement".

By unanimously adopting resolution 1023 (1995), the Council also invited the Secretary-General to maintain the "closest possible contact with all those concerned in order to assist with its work on the matter".

The need for Croatia and the local Serb party to cooperate fully on the basis of the Agreement and "refrain from any military activity or any measure that might hinder the implementation of the transitional arrangements" was stressed, as the Council reminded both sides of their obligation to cooperate fully with UNCRO and ensure its safety and freedom of movement. It also emphasized that the areas in question, formerly known as Sector East, were "integral parts of the Republic of Croatia".

Some other provisions of the Basic Agreement (A/50/757-S/1995/951), signed on 12 November in Zagreb, dealt with: the region's demilitarization; return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes of origin, including a "just compensation for property that cannot be restored to them"; re-establishment of the normal functioning of all public services; assistance from the Transitional Administration in establishing and training of temporary police forces, and building

of "professionalism among the police and confidence among all ethnic communities"; and respect for the "highest levels of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms", including the creation of a commission to monitor the accord's implementation, "particularly its human rights and civil rights provisions".

No later than 30 days before the end

support and a strong mobile, armoured reserve, would be required for the international force, envisaged by the Basic Agreement on Sector East, to maintain peace and security and ensure demilitarization in the area, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali reported (S/1995/1028*) on 13 December. "Anything less than a well-

armed division-sized force would only risk repeating the failures of the recent past", he stressed.

A "robust military presence", sufficiently credible to deter attack from any side and capable of defending itself, was also needed to reassure the inhabitants of the region that, after demilitarization, they would not be exposed to military attack.

The concept of "deterrence by mere presence", as attempted in the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, would be "no likelier to succeed on this occasion", the Secretary-General warned. Also, in case of a "mismatch between the international force's mandate and its resources", there would be a "risk of failure, of international casualties and of undermined credibility for those who had put the force in the field", he stated.

The operation would not succeed, he went on, "unless two conditions are fulfilled": active and sustained political

support of the Security Council, particularly of those States that had played a vital role in concluding the Basic Agreement; and the immediate provision by Member States of the necessary troops and financial resources.

In view of UNCRO's strength—two battalions totalling some 1,600 all ranks, 48 UN military observers, 16 civilian police, 20 UN civilian staff and fewer than 20 personnel of the UN agencies—the Secretary-General had reservations about the UN's present



UNPROFOR engineers perform mine clearing exercises in Sector West.

of the transitional period, "elections for all local government bodies, including for municipalities, districts and counties, as well as the right of the Serbian community to appoint a joint council of municipalities, shall be organized by the Transitional Administration". International organizations and interested States were asked to oversee those elections.

A 'robust military presence'

A mechanized division of two brigades, with combat capability, air

ability to "undertake an enforcement operation of this nature".

Other aggravating factors were the "imprecise nature of the agreement" and the "risk of differing interpretations of some of its provisions" by the parties. All that made it "unwise to assume that compliance will be readily forthcoming", he observed.

An 'international force'

The Security Council on 21 December agreed (S/1995/1053) with the Secretary-General that the Basic Agreement between the Croatian Government and the local Serbs merited "full international support for its effective and timely implementation".

It also reaffirmed its readiness to consider the option that both a transitional administration and an international force, envisaged by the accord, be components of a UN operation.

In sharing the view that implementation would be complex and difficult, Council members recognized the danger that the two sides might have "different interpretations" of some of its provisions. Therefore, they welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send an envoy to the region "as soon as is convenient" to discuss with Croatia and the local Serbs various aspects of the accord's implementation and the establishment of a UN operation.

Resolution 1021:

Arms embargo terminated

On 22 November, the Security Council acted to end the embargo on deliveries of weapons and military equipment to the territory of the former Yugoslavia, imposed under resolution 713 (1991).

In adopting resolution 1021 (1995) by a vote of 14 to none, with 1 abstention (Russian Federation), the Council also decided that the lifting of the embargo would commence from the day the Secretary-General reported that Bosnia, Croatia and the FRY (Serbia and Montenegro) "have formally signed the Peace Agreement" initiated in Dayton, Ohio.

It further specified that: during the first 90 days following the submission of such a report, the embargo would

remain in place; during the second 90 days, all provisions of the arms embargo were to be terminated, except that the delivery of heavy weapons and ammunition, mines, military aircraft and helicopters "shall continue to be prohibited" until an arms control agreement had taken effect; after the 180th day and after the submission of a report on the implementation of the Agreement on Regional Stabilization, "all provisions of the arms embargo shall terminate unless the Council decides otherwise".

Explaining its abstention, the Russian Federation said the resolution ran "counter to the spirit of today's debate", which emphasized the "need for the fostering of peace and stability".

Resolution 1022:

Indefinite suspension of sanctions

Also on 22 November, the Security Council suspended "indefinitely with immediate effect" sanctions against the FRY, imposed or reaffirmed by its relevant resolutions.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1022 (1995), the Council also decided that the above suspension "shall not apply to the measures imposed on the Bosnian Serb party", until the Secretary-General reported to the Council that "all Bosnian Serb forces have withdrawn behind the zones of separation" established under the Peace Agreement. Moreover, if the FRY or the Bosnian Serbs failed to meet their obligations under the Agreement, the suspension was to terminate on the fifth day after the receipt of such a report.

The Council specified that the sanctions would end "on the tenth day following the occurrence of the first free and fair elections" in Bosnia, provided for in the Peace Agreement.

Also, all funds and assets frozen or impounded under the sanctions regime were to be released in accordance with applicable law, the Council ruled. The suspension or termination of obligations pursuant to resolution 1022 was "without prejudice to claims" of successor States to the former Yugoslavia.

In addition, all parties concerned

were urged to take "all necessary measures to assist in locating the two French pilots missing in Bosnia, and to ensure their immediate and safe return".

Pilots freed,

UN staff member killed

Two French pilots—Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat—who had been shot down by a Bosnian Serb missile during a NATO raid on 30 August, were turned over to French officers on 12 December at a motel in Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After "more than 100 days of waiting in fear", the pilots were free, the Secretary-General stated at Geneva, thanking all those who had contributed to their liberation. "This happy ending shows, once again, the indispensable virtues of diplomacy and dialogue", he added.

Tragic news—the death of William Jefferson, a member of the UN Peace Forces (UNPF) in Tuzla and a UN staff member—was announced on 21 November in New York. According to a UN spokesman, Mr. Jefferson of the United States had been "shot and killed by unknown assailants", and there was "every reason to believe that the motives were criminal and not political".

Sanctions Committee

The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) to monitor the implementation of sanctions against the former Yugoslavia—the Sanctions Committee—on 19 December reaffirmed that since the adoption of resolution 1022, there was "no need to notify" the Committee or seek its authorization for "shipping any items, goods or commodities to or from, or through, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as long as the sanctions against that country remain suspended". However, that was not applicable to shipments involving areas under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces, Committee Chairman Emilio J. Cardenas of Argentina stated.

On 10 November, in view of the "very serious humanitarian situation which has been aggravated by the recent inflow of refugees" to the FRY,

the Committee had approved, on an exceptional basis, exports of 186.5 million cubic metres of natural gas per month from the Russian Federation, for an initial period of two months, and 28,500 tons per month of heating oil and 588 tons per month of liquid gas, for a period of six months, provided that both heating oil and liquid gas "will only be delivered via the river Danube".

On 6 October, the Sanctions Committee authorized the "restoration at the Hungarian-Yugoslav border of the natural gas deliveries" to Bosnia, provided that the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo and UNPROFOR ensured proper monitoring. The deliveries had been suspended on 15 August "until appropriate and lasting agreements on the unhindered supply of gas to all users" were reached.

Closure of border certified

Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt—Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY)—confirmed on 7 December and 8 November (S/1995/1027 and S/1995/944) that the FRY (Serbia and Montenegro) was "continuing to meet its commitment to close the border" with the areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Bosnian Serb control, and there had been "no commercial transshipments across the border".

The ICFY Mission, deployed since 14 September 1994, had 217 international staff from 15 countries as of 14 December, they reported (S/1996/4) on 30 December. With its 19 posts functioning on a 24-hour basis and undertaking "mobile day and night patrols", the Mission had covered the entire border area, which stretched for some 330 miles, or 527 kilometres, the Co-Chairmen reported.

Also, on 14 December, Tarmo Kaupila of Finland had succeeded Tauno Nieminen, his compatriot, as Mission Coordinator.

Concern over refugees

The Security Council on 22 December, in expressing grave concern that

the Croatian Government had ignored its 3 October call to "lift any time-limits placed on the return of refugees to reclaim their property", strongly demanded that it do so immediately.

In a statement by its President, Sergey Lavrov of the Russian Federation, the Council also declared that the requirement that "owners must reclaim their property by 27 December 1995" constituted a "virtually insur-

manded that "all concerned comply fully with their obligations in this regard", and reiterated that all those who committed such violations would be held individually responsible.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1034 (1995), the Council also condemned in particular, in the strongest possible terms, violations committed by the Bosnian Serb and paramilitary forces in the areas of Srebrenica, Zepa,

UN Photo/Janel Schroeder



Kenbat soldiers greet villagers in a Croatian village in Sector South.

mountable obstacle for most Serb refugees".

On 3 October, Croatia had been called upon, among other things, to respect fully the rights of the local Serb population, including their right to "remain or return in safety", and investigate all reports of human rights violations and take appropriate measures to put an end to such acts.

In another presidential statement, the Council expressed its concern at the humanitarian situation "in and around the Republic of Croatia", particularly at the "withdrawal of refugee status from and the consequent ending of assistance" to many Bosnian refugees in Croatia.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolutions 1034, 1019:

All violations condemned

In condemning all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in the former Yugoslavia, the Security Council on 21 December de-

Banja Luka and Sanski Most, which showed a "consistent pattern of summary executions, rape, mass expulsions, arbitrary detentions, forced labour and large-scale disappearances". The substantial evidence that an "unknown but large number of men" in the area of Srebrenica had been "summarily executed" by those forces was noted with utmost concern.

The Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party "give immediate and unimpeded access" to the UNHCR, the ICRC, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and other international agencies, to those displaced, detained or reported missing, who were within the areas under the Bosnian Serb control, "including for the purpose of investigation of the atrocities".

In condemning the "widespread looting and destruction of houses and other property", particularly by HVO (Croatian Defence Council) forces in the area of Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo,

the Council demanded that "all sides immediately stop such action, investigate them and make sure that those who violated the law be held individually responsible".

It also reiterated its demands that: all parties, particularly the Bosnian Serbs, "refrain from any action intended to destroy, alter, conceal or damage any evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and that they preserve such evidence"; all detention camps throughout the Bosnian territory be immediately closed; all sides "refrain from laying mines, in particular in those areas now under their control, which under the Peace Agreement will be transferred to another party"; and all States, particularly those in the region of the former Yugoslavia, as well as all parties to the conflict, cooperate fully and in good faith with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia.

By other terms of resolution 1034, the Council: affirmed that the violations of humanitarian law and human rights in Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most from July to October 1995 must be fully and properly investigated by the relevant UN and other international institutions; noted that the International Criminal Tribunal on 16 November had issued indictments against the Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, for their "direct and individual responsibilities for the atrocities committed against the Bosnian Muslim population of Srebrenica in July 1995"; and underlined the "urgent necessity" for all the parties to enable the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal to "gather effectively and swiftly the evidence necessary for the Tribunal to perform its task".

On 9 November, the Council had unanimously adopted resolution 1019 (1995), which also dealt with humanitarian law and human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia. Among other things, the Council was deeply concerned at reports of "mass murder, unlawful detention and forced labour,

rape and deportation of civilians" in the areas of Srebrenica, Banja Luka and Sanski Most, as well as of serious violations committed in the former sectors West, North and South in Croatia, "including burning of houses, looting of property, and killings of civilians".

'Looting and burning must stop'

On 7 December, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to looting and burning of houses by the HVO forces in the areas of Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo, which had "continued for some time", and to similar acts committed by the Bosnian Serb forces in other areas of Bosnia.

In a statement by Council President Lavrov, it also expressed deep concern over reports that the HVO was moving mine laying equipment into Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo areas.

Croatia: Continued violations

Human rights violations in the former Sectors North and South in Croatia "continue to be reported to the present day, albeit on a reduced scale", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali lamented on 21 December.

Since there was a "considerable discrepancy" between the numbers of perpetrators brought to justice and of such violations, a "thorough effort" should be made to arrest and bring all perpetrators promptly to trial, he stressed.

In a special report (S/1995/1051) on the human rights situation in Croatia, the Secretary-General noted that, following the Croatian major military offensive in August against the Krajina Serbs, which had forced some 200,000, or more than 90 per cent of the Serb population, to flee, the rights of the Serbs to return to their homes in safety and dignity were being "seriously curtailed by the absence of constructive measures" to facilitate their return.

The humanitarian situation of the Serb population who had remained in the area, mainly elderly and disabled living in small villages deep in the countryside, was particularly disturbing, he said. Many of them had

received "inadequate attention, at times with fatal consequences", and it was feared that "many more may die during the winter if adequate assistance is not provided in timely manner", Mr. Boutros-Ghali warned.

Human rights violations against the Croatian Serbs, investigated by UNCRO and UNHCR human rights action teams, included: killing of civilians, with more than 230 "suspicious deaths"; massive burning and looting of property (over 5,000 cases); harassment; and ill-treatment.

Although such acts "constituted crimes under the criminal code of Croatia", that country's initial reaction was to "deny that they had occurred and continued to take place", the Secretary-General noted. However, Croatia had later conceded that it had "yet to establish full control over its territory" and provided data on cases of violations and on the respective action taken, he said.



Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Human rights officials speak out

Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn: The human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia gave reason for "serious concern", Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Elisabeth Rehn reported (A/50/727-S/1995/933) on 7 November. Without genuine improvements in the situation, "any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation", she stressed. "Effective protection of human rights in the whole region under international supervision should be firmly granted", and the situation of children must be the "first priority of all concerned parties", Ms. Rehn recommended.

Also, in calling upon all Governments and relevant authorities to extend their cooperation to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Special Rapporteur declared: "There cannot be impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Without justice there cannot be reconciliation, without reconciliation there cannot be peace."

International Criminal Tribunal President Antonio Cassese: On 31 October, Tribunal President Antonio Cassese had complained about the failure of the Bosnian Serb administration in Pale to serve an indictment, confirmed by the Tribunal on 4 November 1994, and a warrant of arrest on Dragomir Nikolic.

"I need hardly note that, for this Tri-

pressing his grave concern over the "human tragedy" that had followed the fall of UN safe area of Srebrenica, as well as the "more recent reported incidents" in the Banja Luka area, said he was pursuing efforts to "ensure access of the human rights field staff to Serb-held areas in both regions". That would allow them to "conduct direct investigations in order to clarify the fate of all the persons unaccounted for", he added.

Earlier, in announcing a series of new measures designed to strengthen human rights activities in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Ayala Lasso had stated that "gross and massive violations have characterized and indeed fuelled the conflict". In a meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee on 18 October at Geneva, he declared: "I consider it essential that human rights constitute a pillar of the reconstruction effort and become a building block of the foundations of the new societies that will emerge from the conflict."

RECONSTRUCTION Humanitarian appeal

Some \$208 million were needed to fund humanitarian assistance to 3.3 million beneficiaries in the former Yugoslavia from January to April 1996, the UN announced on 20 November.

The total number of new asylum seekers and displaced persons in the region in 1995 alone had "risen to half a million", according to Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen and High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, who launched the appeal on behalf of nine UN bodies—UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

War damage

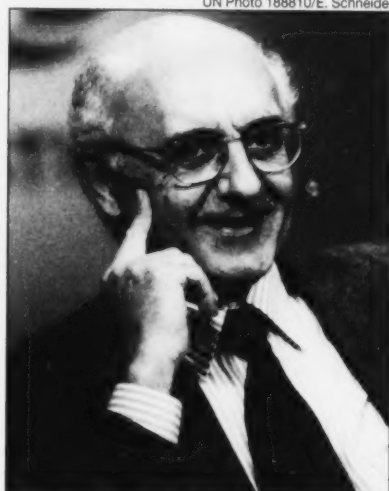
Croatia had faced "severe direct and indirect war damage" which, according to its Government, totalled some \$22 billion, Secretary-General Boutros-

Ghali reported (A/50/812) on 11 December. All that, including the recent military actions initiated by its Government, had had serious consequences—"embracing physical, material, environmental and human damages"—with "significant shifts of population", and created a number of economic challenges.

According to a UN Technical Fact-finding Mission—established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/21 G of 20 December 1994—which had visited Croatia from 22 October to 5 November 1995, those included: shortage of skilled labour and the need for a "significant investment into human resource development" to facilitate transition to a market economy; resettlement of more than 400,000 refugees and displaced persons that would promote the "re-establishment of an adequate workforce for tourism, agricultural production and industry"; restoration of major infrastructure systems, such as power, water resources, rail, road and electrical supply, water and sanitation; a "vigorous programme of demining", since there were approximately 2 million to 4 million mines; improvements in production technology to reach a "competitive level to permit trade with Europe and elsewhere"; and strengthening and privatization of the banking sector.

Prior to 1991, tourism had been the "single most important service sector", representing approximately 25 per cent of Croatia's gross domestic product, the report said. As a result of the military conflict, a "loss of 300 million tourist/nights" had been sustained between 1991 and 1995, and that decline had been "exacerbated by war damage, affecting some hotels and making tourist apartments unavailable".

Also, the damage to cultural monuments in Croatia, which had a "rich cultural heritage" encompassing Roman, Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, had been estimated at \$300 million, the UN Technical Mission reported. However, their value was "priceless and their symbolic importance to both Croats and Serbs cannot be underestimated", it stressed. ■



UN Photo 188810/E. Schneider

Antonio Cassese,
President of the International Criminal
Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

bunal to succeed in its mandate of prosecuting serious violations of international humanitarian law occurring in the former Yugoslavia, all States in the region—including self-proclaimed entities de facto exercising governmental functions—must comply with their legal obligation to cooperate with the Tribunal", Judge Cassese stressed (S/1995/910).

High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso on 8 November, in ex-

UNMOT extended, continuation of dialogue urged

The Security Council on 14 December, in extending the mandate of the UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) until 15 June 1996, regretted the "slow rate of progress" towards a political solution to the conflict in that country.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1030 (1995), it also stipulated that the six-month extension of the Mission, deployed since 16 December 1994, was subject to the proviso that the 17 September 1994 Teheran Agreement on a cease-fire remained in force, and both parties—the Government of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition—continued to be "committed to an effective cease-fire, to national reconciliation and to the promotion of democracy". In that regard, they were urged to agree to the Teheran pact's "substantial extension".

Also, by calling upon the two sides to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Ramiro Piriz-Ballón, the Council stressed the need for them to take the opportunity of the continual round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, which had begun on 30 November, to reach a general agreement that would restore peace and national accord in Tajikistan.

The continuation of "direct political dialogue" between President Emomali Rakhmonov of Tajikistan and Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival Movement, was also encouraged.

In addition, the Council stressed the "urgency of the cessation of all hostile acts" on the Tajik-Afghan border, and called upon all States and others concerned to "discourage any activities that could complicate or hinder the peace process" in that country. The relevant Afghan authorities were encouraged to facilitate the establishment of a "liaison post at Taloqan in northern Afghanistan".

In commending the activities of agencies and organizations assisting the civilian population in Tajikistan, the Council welcomed the "successful resettlement of the vast majority of in-

ternally displaced persons and refugees" and the role played by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In a 6 November statement by its President, Salim bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman, the Council had expressed the



UNHCR Photo



At last, the long-awaited reunion with family and friends.

hope that the continual round of inter-Tajik talks would, among other things, "contribute to a lessening of tensions along the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan".

Slow progress

"I cannot but be concerned that one year has passed since the establishment of UNMOT and that progress towards the resolution of the conflict has been so slow", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali lamented on 8 December. The deterioration of the situation on the ground, characterized by an "increase in military activities and incidents and a general rise of tension", was "equally worrying", he reported (S/1995/1024).

Another "cause for regret" were delays in the implementation of some important confidence-building measures agreed upon during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks (22 May-1 June, Almaty), he stated.

In calling upon all concerned to "cooperate more closely to stem this tide", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that he was, nevertheless, encouraged by the parties' resumption of their negotiations on the basis of the 17 August Protocol on the fundamental principles for establishing peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan, signed concurrently in Dushanbe and Kabul. That accord would serve as an "important framework for the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement", he stressed. ■

Assembly urges end to destructive conflict

The General Assembly on 19 December urged the leaders of all Afghan parties to "renounce the use of force and settle their political differences by peaceful means".

In adopting without a vote resolution 50/88, the world forum also called upon all States to "respect Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity", refrain from interfering in its internal affairs, and "stop the flow of arms and equipment related to arms production to all parties".

The international community was called upon to respond to the UN inter-agency consolidated appeal for \$124 million emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 October 1995 to 30 September 1996, "bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund".

'Yearning for peace'

The Afghan people, who remained "strongly opposed to foreign interference" in their country's internal affairs, had given "every indication of wishing to see" that peace became a "permanent condition", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported (*A/50/737 and Add.1*) on 8 November. Moreover, many of them believed that, if all interested parties worked with the UN to "try to ensure that such interference ceases", they could "resolve their differences and achieve a lasting settlement and durable peace", he stated.

Indeed, "their yearning for lasting peace and stability, which have been denied them for too long, deserves the active support of the international community", the Secretary-General stressed.

There was a "significant common point"—the establishment of a "representative preparatory body to initiate a political process leading towards a lasting settlement"—in various peace plans that had been put forward, he went on. Although differences remained on the modalities, there

seemed to be a "general consensus that such a preparatory mechanism is necessary if Afghanistan is to take the first crucial step out of the current impasse", Mr. Boutros-Ghali observed.

Afghanistan was "effectively controlled by three major military powers": President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his Commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, together with their ally, Governor Ismael Khan of Herat province; General Rashid Dostum, mainly in the northern part of the country; and the Taliban in the south and south-eastern provinces. However, the Secretary-General reported, the general view of the Afghan people was that President Rabbani, whose mandate had expired on 28 December 1994, "must transfer power to a broad-based representative body".

On 6 November, Mr. Rabbani had announced publicly his willingness to transfer power to an individual or commission and proposed that the warring parties and other neutral personalities should "sit together, under United Nations mediation, to agree on a suitable mechanism and the date for the transfer of power", the report said.

On 14 November, he had submitted a list of names for membership in such a mechanism to Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, Head of the UN Special Mission to Afghanistan. General Dostum on 19 November had welcomed the list as a "reasonable basis for negotiations" and himself submitted 10 names, the Secretary-General said.

However, it was reported that on 26 November "intense fighting, involving often indiscriminate rocketing and aerial bombardment was going on in and around Kabul between the Taliban and government forces".

'Critical crossroads'

Afghanistan was "now at a critical crossroads", the Secretary-General stated on 6 December. It could follow



Afghan refugees

either the "route to peace through dialogue and negotiations in a spirit of give-and-take", or the route of "continued war and confrontation where today's victor may be tomorrow's vanquished".

Unfortunately, the current leaders of the principal factions "seem to favour the latter route", Mr. Boutros-Ghali lamented. "I nevertheless continue to believe that peace and stability in Afghanistan are attainable, and that the United Nations should not falter at this juncture", he stressed.

Continued instability would have "grave consequences not only for the Afghans themselves, but also for the whole region", the Secretary-General declared. "Afghanistan is the place where most of the ethnic fault lines in Central Asia converge. The war there has for years had negative repercussions on neighbouring States".

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata on 20 November told the press at Headquarters that there were about 5 million Afghan refugees, of whom 2 million were in Iran and 1.5 million in Pakistan. ■

UNOMIG extended, peace process 'deadlocked'

The Security Council, in expressing "deep concern at the continued deadlock in the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement" to the conflict in Abkhazia—a small Black Sea region of Georgia—on 12 January extended the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for another six months, until 12 July 1996, subject to a review of the Mission's mandate "in the event of any changes" that might be made in the mandate of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping force.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1036 (1996), the Council also reaffirmed its full support for the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve such a settlement, "including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia", as well as for those of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, to "intensify the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict".

The parties—the Government of Georgia and, in particular, the Abkhaz side—were urged to achieve "substantive progress without further delay towards a comprehensive political settlement", and improve their cooperation with UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force in order to provide a "secure environment for the return of refugees and displaced persons".

The Council also demanded that the Abkhaz side "accelerate significantly" the process of voluntary return of those persons by accepting a timetable on the basis of that proposed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "guarantee the safety of spontaneous returnees already in the area" and regularize their status in accordance with the 4 April 1994 Quadripartite Agreement.

In that context, the Abkhaz side was called upon to promote, as a first step, the return of refugees and displaced persons to the Gali region in safety and dignity, and "ensure the safety of all persons in areas under its control". The ethnic killings and human rights violations committed in Abkhazia were also condemned.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in recommending (S/1996/5) the extension of UNOMIG, which had been set up in August 1993, also said that the two sides still needed "outside assistance to help them find a lasting solution to their dispute".

In recent months, he went on, despite strenuous efforts by the Russian Federation to draft a protocol acceptable to both parties, aimed at establishing a "basic understanding of principles on which a more detailed agreement could be elaborated", there had been "very little progress".

On 8 November, the Secretary-General had pointed out (S/1995/937) that the standstill in the search for a political solution of the conflict was "due primarily to the Abkhaz side's unwillingness to offer concessions on its future political status". Such a stance, he observed, appeared to be "influenced in part by hopes and expectations" that changes in the external political environment could enable the Abkhaz side to "maintain its present position in the negotiating process".

However, "the longer the conflict remains unresolved, the more these hopes could turn into a further isolation of the Abkhaz side, in particular in view of the international community's continuing and consistent support for the territorial integrity of Georgia", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed. More disturbingly, he added, the "prevailing deadlock could cause a build-up of pressures that could lead to a resumption of hostilities".

Tense situation

The situation on the ground remained "unsettled and tense", the Secretary-General declared on 2 January.

An early November "Abkhaz operation"—deployment of 309 Abkhaz militiamen into the Gali region, part of the security zone, "reportedly to enhance security in the period preceding the elections in Georgia"—had forced the majority of the local population to flee east across the Inguri river, he said.

On that occasion, the CIS peace-

keeping force had attempted to "exert as much control as possible by monitoring the operation closely", and UNOMIG had "shifted the emphasis of its patrolling in the region to focus on observing the deployment of the militia". After five days, the operation had ended and the local population had returned to the Gali region, the Secretary-General reported.

From 3 November to 20 December, some 23 violent incidents—21 involving "mainly robberies and kidnappings" on the Abkhaz side of the Inguri river and two cases of torture—were reported in UNOMIG's area of responsibility. Also, some 15 incidents of armed individuals from both sides entering the security zone, in violation of the 14 May 1994 Moscow Agreement on a Cease-Fire and Separation of Forces, had been protested by UNOMIG with both sides, the report said.

Bridge opened

In a symbol of "unusual regional co-operation in the war-torn Caucasus", a railway bridge built with aid from the World Food Programme (WFP) was opened on 1 December to "carry food and fuel to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan", the WFP announced. The \$400,000 Natanebi bridge, located 38 kilometres from the Georgian port of Batumi on the Black Sea, replaced a span that had been wrecked in a 1994 train derailment.

Since fighting in Chechnya in the Russian Federation had cut off rail and sea shipments from other parts of the former Soviet Union, Black Sea ports were the "only means of shipping food supplies to the three countries", the WFP stated.

Despite nearly eight years of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh—a mostly Armenian-populated area of Azerbaijan—the two countries had joined with Georgia, each providing \$50,000 in cash or materials, the Programme reported. Some \$250,000 came through the WFP from a United States donation. ■

A stand-by peace-keeping component welcomed

The initiative undertaken by the UN Secretariat for the creation of a "stand-by Headquarters component within the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations" was welcomed by the Security Council on 19 December.

In a statement by its President, Sergey Lavrov of the Russian Federation, the Council also encouraged Member States "not yet doing so" to participate in the stand-by arrangements. It invited them, along with States already taking part in such arrangements, to provide information in "as detailed a manner as possible" on those elements which they were ready to make available to the UN, and to "identify components, such as logistic support elements and sea/airlift resources, presently underrepresented in the arrangement".

In strongly supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the UN capacity for the "planning, rapid deployment and reinforcement and logistical support" of peace-keeping operations, the Council also joined with him in suggesting the establishment of "partnerships between those troop-contributing countries that need equipment for units that may be provided to the United Nations and those Governments ready to provide such equipment and other support".

Council debate

There was a need for a "more formal and institutionalized mechanism of consultations" between troop contributors and the Security Council, including, perhaps, the establishment of a subsidiary consultative organ to be chaired by a Council member specially appointed every year, Emilio J. Cardenas of Argentina said in Council debate on 20 December, as it held a special meeting to consider *"An Agenda for Peace"*.

Speaking for a group of 32 countries, Ambassador Cardenas also suggested that the Council, when considering the establishment of a new

operation, should consult potential troop contributors already approached by the Secretariat and continue its practice of inviting to those meetings

with troop-contributors. However, the existing basic format was a "good one", and efforts should be directed towards strengthening it, rather than setting it aside in favour of new arrangements.

Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan, in stating that a system of prior consultations between Council members, prospective troop-contributors and the Secretariat should be institutionalized, declared that peace-keeping operations exemplified the "sustained political commitment of Member States to the concept of collective security and maintenance of international peace and security".

No rapid reaction capability yet

The system of stand-by arrangements, whose purpose was to have a "precise understanding of the forces and other capabilities a Member State will have available at a given state of readiness", had proven "most useful in its ability to expedite planning", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported (S/1995/943) on 10 November.

Nevertheless, while there was "certainly no lack of willingness" to make troops and equipment available to the stand-by arrangement for peace-keeping operations—as of 31 October, 47 Member States had made such pledges, involving a total of 55,000 personnel, compared to 21 States with some 30,000 troops in 1994—the UN was "currently far from having a rapid reaction capability", he said.

In welcoming the Member States' recent initiatives in that regard, the Secretary-General stated that the Secretariat, for its part, would continue its dialogue with Governments, "with a view to broadening the geographical base of available resources and obtaining the information necessary to facilitate and accelerate the organization, planning and deployment of peace-keeping operations. ■



Security Council President Lavrov

Member States that had made "special contributions to peace-keeping operations, other than troops", such as trust funds, logistics and equipment.

Alain Dejammet of France, while favouring the strengthened information flow among partners in peace-keeping operations, questioned the "merit of attempting to make such consultations a form of Security Council meeting". Behind such suggestions, he felt, there might be a "political, rather than a practical reasoning, linked to the idea of opening Council sessions to States that were not members of the Council".

Karl E. Inderfurth of the United States said the Council should consider "further refinement and improvement in consultative arrangements"



Ambassador Inderfurth

Habitat II: City Summit to Forge the Future of Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like home; a charm from the skies seems to hallow us there, which, sought through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere."

—J. H. Payne

"The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes."

—Confucius

For most human beings, as the old saying goes, "there is no place like home". Yet by the turn of the century, one half of all the world's people will be making their homes in cities, where growth rates topping 1 million people per week have resulted in a long list of afflictions: some 40 per cent of city dwellers worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation, while urban poverty rates in some areas top 60 per cent of residents.

These alarming statistics are compounded by unemployment, homelessness, growing insecurity, rising pollution and increasing vulnerability to disaster. Indeed, primarily due to a deteriorating urban environment, more than 500 million people worldwide—half of whom are children—live in sub-standard housing or have no homes at all.

To find ways to deal with this urban overload and to help ensure in the twenty-first century that all people have access to homes that provide adequate shelter in a healthy and safe environment, UN Member States will convene in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, for the second UN Conference on Human Settlements. Commonly known as Habitat II and called the "City Summit" by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Conference will focus on two major themes: sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world and adequate shelter for all.

"The City Summit encompasses many issues", the Secretary-General said. "There are hard questions to answer. How can we improve the governance and finance of human settlements? What policies are needed to improve conditions for the poorest peo-

WCC Photo/Peter Williams



Urban landscape (Hong Kong).

ple, families and communities? How can we ensure basic hygienic conditions in urban areas, while avoiding long-term damage to the environment? Can we ensure that, by a target date, adequate shelter will exist for all? What must be done to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and war? Can the cycle of deprivation, conflict, devastation and failure to develop be broken?"

The answers to these questions must be focused on urban areas, for cities are where most of the world's population will live and work, where most economic activity will take place, and where most pollution will be generated and most natural resources consumed.

Significant advances

Since the first UN Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, there have been significant advances in the approach to addressing human settlements issues. The UN General Assembly in 1978 created the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)—UNCHS—to help both individual countries and the global community improve housing conditions and manage urbanization (see page 49 on UNCHS).

Habitat was instrumental in drawing up the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to coordinate global efforts to facilitate the provision of adequate shelter for all by the end of the century. This Strategy was formally adopted by the General Assembly in 1988 and provides the focus for Habitat's work. Yet, despite two decades of efforts, rapid urbanization has outpaced the ability of Governments to provide housing, and living conditions for the urban poor have continued to worsen.

Conference aims

Thus, Habitat II aims to achieve what the first Conference did not, by addressing pressing human settlements issues with a more localized approach, and solving housing and urbanization problems within the overall context of sustainable development. The long-term objective of Habitat II is to arrest the deterioration of global hu-



Wally N'Dow,
Secretary-General of HABITAT II

man settlements conditions and ultimately improve the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs of women and vulnerable social groups, whose quality of life and participation in development have been hampered by the exclusion and inequality affecting the poor in general.

In addition, the General Assembly has affirmed that Habitat II should:

- ◆ review trends in human settlements policies and programmes under-

taken to implement the recommendations adopted at the first Conference;

- ◆ conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

- ◆ review implementation of Agenda 21—the wide-ranging action plan adopted by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, the so-called Earth Summit—with respect to human settlements; and

- ◆ review current global trends in economic and social development as they relate to human settlements, and include recommendations for future action at the national and international levels.

The Conference, says Habitat II Secretary-General Wally N'Dow, is about "striving for shelter for as many people as possible and addressing the challenging task of planning the urban world". Moreover, he has stated, "Habitat is not just about inadequate housing and decaying infrastructures, not just about dangerous streets and environmental neglect and much more. In the final analysis, Habitat II is about attitudes, about leadership, about the willingness of society to meet the needs of humanity, the needs we all share with our neighbours in this 'global village' we call home."

Best Practices: Chattanooga, Tennessee

In 1970, Chattanooga was one of the most polluted cities in the United States and faced economic and industrial decline, as well as general urban decay.

By 1993, Chattanooga had, through the combined efforts of government, business and community organizations, cleaned up the air, meeting every United States federal air health quality standard.

The city also instituted widespread job training and creation,

provided affordable housing, cleaned up and expanded parklands, and rebuilt the economy. Chattanooga is now viewed as one of the first global examples of the achievement of simultaneous economic and environmental development.



CNE/Orchard Village

Did you know ... ?

● In 1950, only 30 per cent of humanity lived in cities, compared to 45 per cent in 1995. By the year 2000, every second human being is expected to live in an urban area.

● By 2015, the 10 largest cities in the world will be in Africa, Asia and Latin America; nine of them will be in developing countries. These are: Bombay, India (27.4 million); Lagos, Nigeria (24.4 million); Shanghai, China (23.4 million); Jakarta, Indonesia (21.2 million); Sao Paulo, Brazil (20.8 million); Karachi, Pakistan (20.6 million); Beijing, China (19.4 million); Dhaka, Bangladesh (19 million); and Mexico City, Mexico (18.8 million). The only city in a developed country in the top ten is

Tokyo, Japan, with a projected population of 28.7 million.

● Poverty has a direct negative impact on the quality of human settlements. At least 600 million urban dwellers in Africa, Asia and Latin America live in life—and health—threatening housing due to poor conditions stemming from poverty.

● The cities with the worst housing problems, according to 52 key housing indicators, include Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where 79 per cent of the population is homeless or lives in substandard housing; Jakarta, Indonesia, with 54 per cent; and Bogota, Colombia, with 50 per cent.

● Income generated from housing projects stimulates private

growth: for every dollar invested on home construction—which requires materials, transportation, marketing and labor—three dollars are added to the national income. Moreover, low-cost housing generates more income than high-cost housing.

● Urbanization is not a bad thing, poor urban management is. Urbanization contributes to national economic and social development, leading to improvements in living standards for a considerable part of the world's population. Most countries with high rates of urbanization during the last decade also experienced economic growth. Poorly managed cities, however, lead to the deterioration of living conditions, and urban poverty results when Governments fail to plan for population increases and provide the required infrastructure, services and jobs.

Therefore, according to Dr. N'Dow, the Istanbul gathering will be more than a conference; it will represent a recognition "that if we want to save the

future, we have no choice other than to find answers today to one of the most neglected and urgent problems of our time, one that goes to the very heart of

our every day lives—how we live, where we live, and above all, if we live at all".

An urbanizing world

That sentiment is no exaggeration. According to the 1996 *Global Report on Human Settlements, An Urbanizing World*, housing shortages and poor housing conditions, including unsafe water and poor sanitation, are responsible for 10 million deaths every year worldwide. Waterborne diseases alone kill 4 million infants and children annually, states the report, which was released recently by UNCHS.

More specifically, 320,000 people



Makeshift housing in crowded shanties.

UN Photo 154314/Oddbjorn Moseaen

The challenge of urbanization

were afflicted and nearly 3,000 killed by the cholera epidemic in Peru, which could have been prevented by sanitation improvements; a 1994 plague outbreak in Surat, India—a comparatively prosperous city—was attributed mainly to unsanitary housing conditions. The homeless in the industrialized world are now a common phenomenon: in London, for example, life expectancy among the homeless is more than 25 years lower than the national average.

Furthermore, while poor urban housing conditions are a global problem, conditions are worst in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa, which will be home to the 10 largest cities in the world by 2015. Overall, 80 per cent of the world's urban residents will live in developing countries by 2025, according to the Habitat report.

In short, the issue of urbanization "cannot be addressed unless we face up to the issues behind it". Dr. N'Dow said at a colloquium on Habitat II in Vancouver on 28 October, "for we cannot look at urbanization in isolation. We must look at it in the context of a world caught up in a historic transition, a dynamic process of change in which urbanization is not the cause of our problems, but a mirror reflecting them, a microcosm in which, paradoxically they are magnified."

Furthermore, he continued, despite the problems of urbanization, "we cannot stop it, nor should we. It is at the heart of a new world in the making. It is in many ways in fact the engine driving it." Habitat's *Global Report on Human Settlements* agrees, stating that massive urbanization is the only way the world can survive the massive population increase. Accord-

ing to the report, urban areas offer a higher life expectancy, lower absolute poverty, greater access to education and health care, more effective resources use, and lower cost per household for waste disposal and other services.

It is not urbanization itself that is to blame for the problems associated with cities, concludes the report, but

urban sprawl over the best quality farmland.

The Habitat Agenda

The challenge of Habitat II, thus, has as many dimensions as human settlements themselves. To address the diversity of issues and present concrete commitments for action, Habitat II participants will adopt a final docu-

ment, to be known as the Habitat Agenda. The Agenda will comprise a Statement of Principles and Commitments, and a Global Plan of Action for the next two decades, with special focus on remedial action in the next five years (1996-2000).

The Agenda's concerns and aims include:

- ◆ improving governance and participation by encouraging Governments and local authorities to embark on partnerships with urban dwellers to improve management of cities;

- ◆ meeting housing and infrastructure needs to improve the situation for the more than 1 billion people in the world who live in inadequate conditions—without piped water, electricity, security of land tenure, access to roads or health facilities;

- ◆ improving the urban economy by reducing poverty and creating jobs through a more participatory urban planning approach that takes stock of local skills, technologies and materials;

- ◆ incorporating environmental concerns since sustainable development in the twenty-first century will, to a large degree, depend on how cities, towns and villages everywhere interact with the environment and utilize natural resources;

- ◆ increasing awareness of gender issues, since women suffer disproportional



World Bank Photo/Edwin G. Huffman

Childhood in the slums.

the failure of governmental institutions to manage rapid change and to tap the knowledge and resources available among the population within each city. In the absence of good governance and effective management, cities become unhealthy and dangerous places, where expansion takes place haphazardly, often with

Best Practices: Curitiba, Brazil

In Curitiba, five successful projects have resulted in jump-starting the economy, assisting the poorest of the poor and cleaning up the city. A combined land-use planning/public transportation system has resulted in 75 per cent of Curitiba's commuters travelling by bus, despite having Brazil's second highest per capita car ownership. Another programme—combining solid waste management and job creation—has employed more than 4,000 people, treated 7,000 tons of waste and cleaned up more than 1,100 acres of

public space. In addition, waste collected by low-income families can be exchanged for bus tickets and food, alleviating two of the poor's heaviest financial burdens, while saving the city the cost of waste collection.

Through a water and park management programme, green space in Curitiba has increased from 0.5 square meters to 50 square meters per capita. The city has also developed a network of public libraries, equipped with modern computer technology, suitable for young people.

tionately from poverty and lack of infrastructure, and often have unequal access to resources such as property, credit, training and technology, even though they are usually responsible for improving the living standards of their children; and

- ♦ mitigating disasters through better planning, access to affordable urban land and improved construction methods that can reduce the extent of catastrophes.

"To overcome current problems and to ensure future progress in improving environmental, social, economic and political conditions in human settlements, we must begin with a recognition of the challenges facing cities", asserts the preamble to the draft final document. "The Habitat Agenda issues a global call to action. It offers, within a framework of principles and commitments, a positive vision of sustainable human settlements—where all women and men have adequate shelter, productive and freely chosen employment, a healthy and safe environment and access to basic services."

New partnerships

A unique feature of Habitat II is the strong encouragement from States for the active participation of local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

community-based organizations and the academic and scientific communities. These partnerships are vital for more effective planning, resource mo-

often lack legal, institutional, financial and human resources to respond adequately to rapid urbanization, many local authorities are taking on these challenges with open, accountable and effective leadership and are eager to bring their citizens into the sustainable development process", states the preamble to the draft Agenda. "Enabling structures that facilitate independent initiative and creativity, as well as encourage a wide range of partnerships, must be promoted."

Therefore, a key commitment and strategy of the Agenda plan of action is that of enablement, "by which all women and men work with Government at all levels, with the private sector, with other non-governmental organizations, and with each other in their own communities to determine the collective future they want, to decide on priorities for action, to identify and allocate resources fairly, to build partnerships to achieve common goals, and to ensure that goals are consistent



The homeless are everywhere.

bilization and investment in all aspects of shelter and human settlements development, and for distributing the benefits of economic growth more equitably.

"Although Governments at all levels

with basic principles", according to the draft.

Reflecting this strategy, the Conference proceedings will include the traditional Plenary and Main Committee, as well as a new Partnership Commit-

UN Photo 155260/John Isaac

tee. In the new committee, representatives from local administrations, NGOs, academics, professionals in housing and human settlements, trade unions and the private sector will present views, evaluations, proposals and commitments generated in special round-table forums to the delegates of the participating nations, who in turn will convey them to the Conference Plenary.

"Now, more than ever, citizens of cities are demanding to be heard and to be given the authority to make decisions about the way their cities, towns and villages should be governed", stated Dr. N'Dow in the April 1995 issue of "Countdown to Istanbul", a newsletter published by UNCHS as part of Habitat II's preparatory process. "This new trend in urban management may not be 'new'—participation and action were the cornerstones of fifth century Athenian society—but it is being widely accepted. It is the basis for Habitat's enabling strategy which encourages communities, local authorities, Governments and the private sector to come up with integrated strategies to deal with problems in a way that 'enables' all urban actors to feel responsi-

Best Practices: Ile-de-France, France

Paris, France and its suburbs—known as the Ile-de-France region—had more than 40,000 run-down apartment hotel rooms in which mostly immigrants lived. These residents were at the mercy of landlords who would not improve conditions. Local community organizations began an experimental programme to upgrade one apartment hotel, which led to cooperation with the Ministry of Housing. The programme expanded and, from 1985 to 1991, six buildings were re-built to house the residents.

Since the Ile-de-France success, several projects in other European cities used the French project as a model. "The example in France,



where the programme sparked similar programmes in other cities, is exactly the kind of sharing that we are aiming for", says Dr. N'Dow. "Cities learned about a programme that worked and was cost-efficient and they went for a proven winner."

ble for actions taken at the local level ... In other words, governance is no longer a top-down process; rather, it is interactive and dynamic, built on partnerships."

Best practices

Another novel initiative of the Habitat II process is the identification of "best practices for improving the living environment", representing cities



Hillside shantytowns erected by their inhabitants.

HABITAT II

from around the world, which have found successful and sustainable solutions to urban problems.

More than 700 participants at the International Conference on Best Practices in Improving Living Environments, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 1995, reviewed 25 case studies from a growing list of cities around the world that have adopted new and innovative ways to solve such urban problems as the lack of adequate low-income housing, waste disposal, and air and water pollution. The criteria for "best practices" designation include: achievement of tangible improvements in the lives of residents; formation of lasting partnerships between Governments, community organizations, the private sector and international agencies; and sustainability of benefits.

The examples reviewed in Dubai—as well as in Curitiba, Brazil; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and the Paris/Ile de France region—will be the first of several hundred "best practices" being entered into a new worldwide UN database that will be made available to city managers, government officials and private urban investors.

Final preparations

The culmination of Habitat II will be the adoption of a final document which aims to guide efforts towards achieving sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages at all levels into the twenty-first century. The proposed document, entitled "The Habitat Agenda", contains a preamble, a statement of goals and principles, a declaration of commitments to be undertaken by Governments in support of the objectives of Habitat II, and spe-

cific strategies for implementing the global action plan.

At its third and final session (5-16 February, New York), the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II gave conditional approval to major portions of the draft Agenda. The Committee noted that, due to time constraints, portions



Improvised shelter.

of the final document would be submitted to the Conference itself as having been informally negotiated during the preparatory process, but not formally approved.

The issues that remained unresolved despite extended negotiations during the session included: language pertaining to the right to adequate housing; institutional arrangements for following up the plan of action; and financial resources needed for implementation.

Negotiations over the draft Agenda "have been long and hard, but we leave here with many brackets on issues and phraseology that have thus far defied our most intense efforts", said Habitat II Secretary-General N'Dow in a closing statement to the session on 16 February. In spite of those difficulties, he was confident that the negotiating process would succeed and "we will have a Global Plan of Action that reflects global consensus".

According to Dr. N'Dow, enormous progress was made in the evaluation and understanding of the notion of the right to housing, with gains made in agreement on the affirmative role of Government to help make housing habitable, affordable and accessible.

Another area of great progress during the session related to the idea of partnerships, which would be based on the willingness of national governments to work with local authorities on the Habitat Agenda. All partners would be encouraged to work with NGOs and the private sector. In fact, partnership had become a compelling theme of the conference, Dr. N'Dow stressed.

According to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Martti Lujanen of Finland, the unresolved issues would be the subject of informal negotiations in the period leading up to Istanbul, and would be taken up again formally during the pre-Conference consultations. In closing the session, he stated that the question of what was meant by good or sustainable development was, in essence, political. The Conference would have to decide on the development paradigm for the towns and cities in the next century.

UNFPA Photo

Also during the session, the Preparatory Committee approved most of the list of NGOs and local authorities recommended for accreditation to the Conference. In addition, it heard presentations of "best practices" in addressing urban problems, as well as reports from mayors on regional meetings, which dealt with the growing responsibilities of municipalities in an era of decentralized government and diminished resources.

While the first preparatory meeting had identified a list of issues reflecting the difficulties faced in society today, and the second session saw the evolution of a conference of partners, the third and final session reflected "the importance of concerted action and broad-based planning at all levels and among all partners". Mr. Boutros-Ghali said in an opening statement to the Preparatory Committee on 5 February. "We must take with us to Istanbul a document that is vital and vibrant. A living document, if you will, that not only shows the way, but provides realistic and attainable goals to which all nations can subscribe, and which all cities can implement".

The Habitat Agenda, the Secretary-General said, "will be your legacy to the future. A legacy of sustainable human, social, economic and environmental development. A legacy that is felt in the cities, towns and villages of our world in the new millennium".

Because most actions will be undertaken at the national and local levels, the draft Habitat Agenda emphasizes building capacity and developing institutions in-country, strengthening local authorities, facilitating broad participation and civic engagement, defining government responsibility, planning and managing metropolitan areas, generating financial resources, creating effective economic instruments and guaranteeing cooperation in financing sustainable development, technology transfer and information exchange. A 15 November report of the Secretary-General on the draft final document (*A/Conf.165/PC.3/3*) states: "Taken in its entirety, the Habitat Agenda is developing into a policy plan for improving the processes of

governance and for technical cooperation in support of those processes at all levels."

The Preamble to the draft Agenda states: "As we enter the twenty-first century, our vision of a world of stability and peace must be reinvigorated. There is a sense of great opportunity and hope that a new world can be built in which social and economic progress, environmental protection and better standards of living can be realized through global solidarity and cooperation. Nowhere can these goals be better demonstrated than through the quality of living conditions in our settlements."

Acknowledging that many countries lack resources to respond to rapid urbanization, the preamble calls for the promotion of enabling structures that facilitate independent initiative and creativity, and that encourage the wide range of partnerships, including with the private sector, and within and between countries.

The draft preamble concludes: "The Habitat Agenda issues a global

call to action. It offers, within the framework of principles and commitments, a positive vision of sustainable human settlements—where all women and men have adequate shelter, productive and freely chosen employment, a healthy and safe environment and access to basic services. The Global Plan of Action will guide efforts to turn the vision into reality."

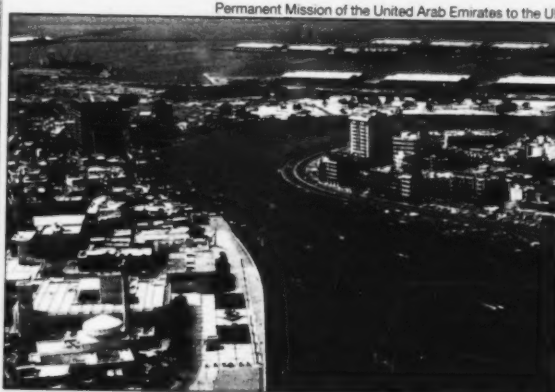
Goals and principles

In section two of the draft Agenda on goals and principles, Member States are asked to commit themselves to adopting the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The draft contains nine principles "to guide us in our actions in attaining these goals".

Commitments and action

In the final two sections, Member States are asked to make commitments to six main objectives and are provided with a detailed outline of the strategies for implementing those

Best Practices: Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the UN

The municipal structure of Dubai was designed for 50,000 people in 1950, it now serves more than 700,000. The city, which hosted the November 1995 Best Practices Conference, has set the standard for other cities to follow by

adjusting to its mushrooming growth through flexible urban policies. Dubai also takes a "bottom-up" approach, whereby the most immediate needs of the city are resolved before all others are even discussed. Environmental management, including the participation

of the private sector, as well as women's education and urban planning, are other strong components of Dubai's agenda, creating a city that Habitat Secretary-General N'Dow has described as "way ahead of its time".

objectives through the Global Plan of Action.

A decade of conferences

With its focus on people and their relationship to the living environment, Habitat II is the culmination of a decade of major UN conferences that have addressed topics such as the environment, population, social development and women. The City Summit calls for action in nearly all areas covered by those conferences: improving living conditions for women, children and the disadvantaged; cleansing and protecting the physical environment; defending the rights of individuals; generating employment; promoting commerce and industry; encouraging ethnic groups to live in harmony; and enabling all people to participate in

community life free from poverty and fear.

More specifically, Secretary-General N'Dow has said, Habitat II advances the idea of sustainable development, moving from the "green agenda" of the Earth Summit to the "brown agenda" where people live, focusing on the human environment. Indeed, the UN General Assembly decided in December 1992 (*resolution 47/180*) to convene a second UN Conference on Human Settlements, based on recommendations contained in Agenda 21.

"There is a poetic logic to Habitat II being the last stop on this remarkable road", Dr. N'Dow said at the Global Observance of World Habitat Day in Curitiba, Brazil, on 2 October. "For it will be there in Istanbul where it all comes home, where all the recommen-

dations for actions will have to be implemented. That is why it is so important that all Governments and a wide variety of partners ... focus on tangible programmes and strategies to help people around the world pool their talents and energies to improve their communities, to make them safe, healthy, equitable places in which to lead productive lives.

"That will be the true test of Habitat II, which, if it is the last in the continuum, is also the first of a new kind of conference: a conference of partners in all walks of life—in and out of government in which they will be able to voice their views and make commitments in an unprecedented process designed to create a new pattern in United Nations decision-making." ■

Sustainable human settlements: Ten good policies that will make a difference

1 Welcome the benefits and opportunities provided by the growth of cities, but combat urban inequality and environmental degradation. Otherwise, the cost of cities will outweigh their benefits in the long term.

2 Release the energies and tap the resources of people and businesses, but don't leave everything to markets. Governments must coordinate the actions of others, and monitor and correct abuses. Freedom to build must be balanced by a duty to protect the interests of the poor.

3 The best way to protect the interests of poor people where government resources are scarce is to attack supply constraints on a very large scale, especially in land and finance. Positive measures, such as guided investments, should be used rather than negative ones.

4 Strengthen the structures of urban governance and the institutions of the city—economic, political

and civic. Create an enabling framework for civic action—respect NGOs and community-based organizations as independent expressions of civil society. Adapt universal principles of transparency, accountability and representative governance to the local situation. Always involve women.

5 Maximize the use of public/private partnerships to draw in additional resources and capacities, but don't confuse "private" with "commercial". All partners must receive benefits from their participation.

6 Concentrate on scaling-up successful ideas, attitudes and approaches, not just projects and programmes. Use scarce public and NGO funds to lever additional resources from larger structures and institutions on a sustained basis. Strengthen links between formal and informal structures.

7 Strengthen government capacities at all levels, but don't see urban management as a panacea. En-

hance local control over resource-raising and spending with accountable structures and transparent performance-monitoring. Policy can make a difference even when resources are scarce.

8 Don't take on too much: focus on a small number of key intersectoral issues, such as urban poverty, the "brown agenda"—improving health, water, sanitation, solid waste management—and supply constraints, and lay down time-bound goals and strategies to address them. Maximize learning.

9 Don't divorce shelter and human settlements from wider economic, political and social policies. Adopt the holistic approach.

10 Make policy according to the local situation not imported models or ideologies. Globally-driven market economics does not supply all answers to problems of equitable and sustainable human settlements development.

UNCHS—Habitat: Global facilitation of human settlements efforts

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)—widely known as Habitat—was established in Nairobi in 1978, two years after the first Habitat Conference. It formulates and implements relevant UN programmes and serves as a think-tank within the UN system, assisting Governments in improving the development and management of human settlements.

Habitat activities are based on the concept that human settlements "are the physical articulation of the social, economic and political interaction of people living in communities", states a UNCHS brochure. "Whether the communities are urban or rural, their development involves a transformation of the environment from its natural state to a built one. The elements required to meet basic human needs include housing and its related infrastructure, places of work, social services and recreation, and the institutions to produce and manage them."

UNCHS was instrumental in drawing up the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to coordinate global efforts to facilitate the provision of adequate shelter by the end of the century. Adopted by the General Assembly in 1988, the Strategy has provided the framework for human settlements policies and the Centre's work.

UNCHS serves as the secretariat for Habitat II and is expected to remain, along with the Commission on Human Settlements, the

institutional focus for implementing the action plan to be adopted at the Conference, which will be known as the Habitat Agenda.

Since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, Habitat has also been in charge of following up the implementation of human settlements-related recommendations contained in Agenda 21. It occupies a key role in Agenda 21 because human settlements are the locus of many complex, cross-sectoral socio-economic issues, including poverty, equity, unsustainable consumption patterns and others.

To meet such challenges, UNCHS has initiated a number of worldwide programmes, among them:

- ◆ The Sustainable Cities Programme—operating on the premise that cities face a scarcity not of capital, but of management capacity—works at the local, national and regional levels to build capacities in urban planning and management. It is a bottom-up, demand-driven programme which concentrates on building the capacities and abilities of municipal authorities and their partners in the public, private and community sectors, especially in the field of environmental planning and management.

- ◆ The Localizing Agenda 21 Programme is designed to stimulate joint venture initiatives between local authorities, the private sector and community groups in translating the human settlements

components of Agenda 21 into concrete action on the local level. It promotes the strategy of enabling all key actors to play an effective role in sustainable urban development.

- ◆ The Settlement Infrastructure and Environment Programme was launched to support the developing countries in achieving the infrastructure-related goals of Agenda 21, especially on the provision of water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, sustainable energy systems, and the use of environmentally sound technologies for sustainable development of human settlements.

- ◆ The UNCHS Indicators Programme is one of the first international initiatives in data collection at the city level. Housing and urban indicators constitute key elements in preparations towards Habitat II, according to the November 1995 issue of *"Countdown to Istanbul"*, a newsletter published by the Conference Secretariat. "Indicators constitute a powerful tool for analyzing, understanding and monitoring the interface between environment and development", according to the newsletter. "Urban indicators are the means by which progress towards achieving urban sustainability can be monitored, measuring urban conditions, the pressure exerted by human settlements and urban activities in their given environment, and the level of response in monitoring impacts of urbanization."

Conference on HABITAT II at the American University

The Center for the Study of the Global South at the American University in Washington, D.C. will be holding a major event for HABITAT II on 10 and 11 April 1996. The conference, "City Summit or Community Summit?: HABITAT II", will feature panels on such key themes as "Problems of Megacities", "The Informal City", urban problems in the South and how urbanization affects the environment. Speakers will include academics from north and south, World Bank experts, United States administration officials, NGO representatives and authorities on urbanization. The opening session will be addressed by the Secretary-General of Habitat II, Dr. Wally N'Dow, and by the President of the American University, Dr. Benjamin Ladner.

All those interested in participating should contact the office of Professor Clovis Maksoud, Director, Center for the Study of the Global South at (202) 885-1612 or fax (202) 885-1186.



British Information Services, New York

More Best Practices ...

Leicester was chosen as the United Kingdom's first "environmental city" because of a pollution monitoring programme, which improves the environment by building and encouraging the use of bicycle routes, introducing curbside recycling projects and implementing promotional campaigns to inform citizens.



Courtesy of Tourist Office, Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, which has a population of 6 million—most living in urban or suburban areas—the Public Housing Authority responded to high land prices and overcrowding by building an average of 45,000 apartments a year, which are placed on the market at 45 per cent of market value.

Tehran, Iran, by its own admission one of the most polluted cities of the world, has undertaken several steps to reduce carbon monoxide emissions. Some 1,500 buses are being converted from diesel fuel to compressed natural gas. The municipality also enforces mandatory emissions inspections in Restricted Traffic Zones. As a result, the green space per person in Tehran increased from 2.5 square meters to 10 square meters in 1993.

Special commemorative meeting in October is highlight of session

A three-day special commemorative meeting, marking the first half century of the United Nations' existence, highlighted the fiftieth session of the General Assembly (19 September-23 December). The meeting capped nine months of celebrations and observances worldwide of the UN golden jubilee and was attended by the largest gathering of world leaders in history—Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings, Princes, Sultans, and Heads of State and Government.

From 22 to 24 October, some 200 speakers addressed the Assembly, including 129 Heads of State and Government. The UN's birthday—24 October—also marked the beginning of the

World Week of Peace, which was proclaimed by the Assembly as a time for Governments and peoples of the world to reflect together on the challenges before them, as the Organization celebrated its 50th anniversary.

A five-part "Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations" was adopted by acclamation at the conclusion of the special commemorative meeting. The seven-page document consists of an introduction and five sections on peace, development, equality, justice, and the United Nations organization.

(For details on the special commemorative meeting, see the UN Chronicle, December 1995 issue.)

Address by Pope John Paul II

Prior to the commemorative meeting, in a special address to the General Assembly on 5 October, His Holiness Pope John Paul II called for a common effort to "build a civilization of love

existence for others. The UN must rise above the cold status of an administrative institution to become a "moral centre", where all the countries of the world felt a shared awareness of being a family of nations, he said.



UN Photo 190472/E. Schneider

Pope John Paul II visited the United Nations on 5 October, at the invitation of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to address the General Assembly.

based on the universal values of peace, solidarity, justice and liberty", to answer the fear that darkened human existence at the close of the twentieth century.

Delivering his address in English, Spanish, French and Russian, and closing it with greetings in Arabic and Chinese, the Pope addressed a range of issues, including freedom, the rights of nations and individuals, respect for differences, and the role of the UN in building a future free of fear.

The UN, he said, must not only serve as a centre of mediation for conflict resolution; it must also foster values of solidarity, which could raise the level of relations between nations, from simple existence with others to

Addressing the suffering of millions of people living in poverty, he said an ethic of solidarity must prevail on the international economic scene if participation, economic growth and a just distribution of goods were to characterize the future of humanity. He added that the basic question facing all was the responsible use of freedom in both its personal and social dimensions. Freedom, he stressed, was not simply the absence of tyranny or oppression, nor was it a licence to

do whatever one liked. Rather, freedom was ordered to the truth and fulfilled in man's quest for truth, a truth "universally knowable through the moral law written on the hearts of all".

Introducing the Pope to the Assembly, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali affirmed: "He tells us that we can and we must conquer fear if we are to solve the problems of our planet and its people."

South Africa's unpaid dues waived

The Assembly addressed an agenda covering a wide range of political, disarmament, economic, social and humanitarian matters, as well as legal, administrative and budgetary questions.

50TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For the first time ever, the unpaid dues of a UN Member State were written off. In absorbing the \$94.8 million in debt accumulated by South Africa from 30 September 1974 to 23 June 1994, during which time that country's apartheid Government was suspended from participating in the Assembly, Member States waived their right to receive the same amount of money in credits available to them from previous UN regular and peace-keeping budgets. Another option, not embraced, would have been to clear the debt by assessing that amount among Member States.

In a new action, the Assembly asked the Conference on Disarmament to include environmental norms in disarmament and arms control agreements.

Under a new text on the situation of human rights in Nigeria, the Assembly condemned Nigeria's arbitrary execution, after a flawed judicial process, of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight co-defendants on 10 November (*see pg. 80 on human rights*).

On Bosnia and Herzegovina, many representatives expressed hope for peace in light of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed in Paris. The Assembly welcomed the important role assigned to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the Agreement, and also acknowledged OSCE's role in the implementation of the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. The Secretary-General was asked to increase the opportunity for countries affected by the Security Council sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of the crisis-stricken areas of the former Yugoslavia.

Security Council

In a debate on reform of the Security Council, a number of speakers called for more equitable geographical representation and an increase in Council membership. The alteration of

membership categories and the veto power were also reviewed, with some speakers calling for termination of that power. Many supported permanent Council membership for Japan and Germany. The Assembly elected Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Poland and the Republic of Korea to two-year terms on the Council, filling the non-permanent seats vacated on 31 December by Argentina, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda.

Examining the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, the Assembly welcomed the peace process started at Madrid in 1991 and expressed support for the subsequent bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel was called upon to withdraw from Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. Member States were urged to expedite economic and technical assistance to Palestinians during the current critical time. Israel was called on to completely respect their fundamental freedoms, pending the extension of self-government arrangements to the rest of the West Bank. A moment of silence was observed in tribute to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated on 4 November.

The Assembly extended the mandate of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until 30 June 1999.

A Preparatory Committee for an international criminal court, mandated to draft a convention for adoption by a conference of plenipotentiaries, was established. The draft statute of the court has been prepared by the International Law Commission. The court will concentrate on "hard-core" international crimes.

A Declaration in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War was approved. The Declaration pointed out that 1995 was the World Year of Peoples' Commemoration of the Victims of the Second World War. It noted that new opportunities were emerging for building a non-violent world and a system of

genuine global security, with the UN as the central element.

Youth

The Assembly commemorated the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000

and Beyond. The Programme contains proposals for action to the year 2000 and beyond, aiming at achieving the objectives of the International Youth Year and at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihood among young people. It focuses particularly on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and identifies ten priority areas for action: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making.

The Assembly suggested that national ministries of youth and sport consider collaborating with the Olympic Movement, in the spirit of Olympic ethics and fair play, on preventive education programmes such as anti-doping programmes, drug abuse prevention, environmental protection and enhancing the participation of women in all aspects of the sport movement.

A special session of the Assembly would be held in the year 2000 to review the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and to consider further actions and initiatives.

The Assembly decided to convene a fourth special session on disarmament, to be held in 1997, if possible; a



UN Photo

one-week special session, in June 1997, to review the implementation of Agenda 21—the action programme adopted by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development; and the ninth session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX), under the unifying theme of “Promoting growth and sustainable development in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy”.

International Year for Tolerance

A special commemorative meeting was held on 20 November to mark the end of the UN Year for Tolerance. The Assembly in 1993 had proclaimed 1995 as the Year, giving the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization the role of lead organization. In a statement, the Assembly President said that, beyond any given time-frame, the international community should transcend differences to renew its determined commitment to the promotion of the concept of tolerance as a prerequisite for a peaceful and non-violent world.

The Assembly supported the decisions of the Presidents of the Central American countries to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, and encouraged initiatives of those countries to consolidate Governments that based their development on democracy, peace, cooperation and respect for human rights. The Assembly noted that the Tegucigalpa Protocol had modified the institutional structure in Central America, formerly known as the Organization of Central American

States, as well as its purposes and principles, and had instituted the Central American Integration System, which was invited to participate in the Assembly's work as an observer.

Panama's initiative to convene in September 1997 the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal to examine the role which the Canal should play in the twenty-first century was

States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. States that had, and continued to apply, such laws and measures were urged to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

Nuclear issues

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was urged to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the implementation of the safeguards agreement in force between them. The Assembly expressed deep concern that Iraq had, since 1991, withheld from IAEA information about its nuclear-weapons programme in violation of its obligations under Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715—all of 1991—and stressed the need for Iraq to cooperate fully with the Agency in achieving the complete implementation of relevant Council resolutions.

States were urged to support negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, and the Conference on Disarmament was called on to conclude a treaty as soon as possible in 1996. The Assembly urged nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, stockpiling and production of nuclear warheads and delivery systems, and to undertake a phased programme of deep reductions of nuclear weapons, aimed at their total elimination within a time-bound framework.

The Assembly declared 26 April 1996 as the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of



Applauding the election of Diogo Freitas do Amaral as President of the fiftieth General Assembly (centre) is Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (left), and Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (right).

supported. The Assembly expressed full support for the International Civilian Mission to Haiti and hoped that Haiti would continue to afford its timely, complete and effective cooperation. The Secretary-General was asked to support the Haitian Government as it worked towards the national reconstruction and development of the country.

Regarding the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, the Assembly reiterated its call to States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures whose extraterritorial effects affected the sovereignty of other

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the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident (*see story on pg. 78*).

Other issues

The Secretary-General was asked to promote cooperation between the UN and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, which brings together a considerable number of UN Member States that use French as a common language. He was also asked to ensure that personnel recruited by the Organization would have command of at least one of the UN's working languages—English or French. In the case of staff members who were going to work for another UN body for two years or less, they should have command of one of the working languages of that organization.

Developments relating to the law of the sea were discussed by the Assembly, following the opening for signature on 4 December 1995 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which for the first

time would bind States to conserve and sustainably manage high-seas fisheries and to settle fishing disputes peacefully (*see story on pg. 77*).

Member States were encouraged to promote democratization and make additional efforts to identify steps to support Governments' efforts to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies. The international community was urged to provide assistance to mine-afflicted countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-clearance techniques. The Assembly extended the UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa for three to five years beyond April 1994.

The Assembly also adopted resolutions on assistance to Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, Djibouti, El Salvador, Liberia, Madagascar, Nicaragua, the Palestinian people, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and States affected by the Chernobyl disaster and by the implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The people of Burundi

were strongly urged to cooperate with the coalition Government and the security forces to promote national reconciliation and fight all forms of extremism, in particular by armed terrorist groups and militias. The Secretary-General was supported in his efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The parties in Western Sahara were called on to implement the Security Council-approved Settlement Plan.

The UN Convention on Independent Guarantees and Stand-by Letters of Credit was adopted and opened for signature or accession. The instrument is part of efforts aimed to harmonize and unify international trade law by the UN Commission on International Trade Law, which negotiated the text for some six years.

Also endorsed were proposals by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations on the completion of a code of conduct for peace-keepers, further progress on stand-by arrangements, and the development of a rapidly deployable headquarters team of personnel, skilled in essential military and civilian missions. ■

Excerpts from the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

United Nations Organization

In order to be able to respond effectively to the challenges of the future and the expectations of the United Nations held by peoples around the world, it is essential that the United Nations itself be reformed and modernized. The work of the General Assembly, the universal organ of the States Members of the United Nations, should be revitalized. The Security Council should, *inter alia*, be expanded and its working methods continue to be reviewed in a way that will further strengthen its capacity and effectiveness, enhance its representative character and improve its working efficiency and transparency; as important differences on key

issues continue to exist, further in-depth consideration of these issues is required. The role of the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened to enable it to carry out effectively, in the modern age, the tasks it has been assigned with respect to the well-being and standards of life of all people. These and other changes, within the United Nations system, should be made if we are to ensure that the United Nations of the future serves well the peoples in whose name it was established.

In order to carry out its work effectively, the United Nations must have adequate resources. Member States must meet, in full and on time, their obligation to bear the

expenses of the Organization, as apportioned by the General Assembly. That apportionment should be established on the basis of criteria agreed to and considered to be fair by Member States.

The secretariats of the United Nations system must improve significantly their efficiency and effectiveness in administering and managing the resources allocated to them. For their part, Member States will pursue and take responsibility for reforming that system.

We recognize that our common work will be the more successful if it is supported by all concerned actors of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, multilateral financial institutions, regional organizations and all actors of civil society. We will welcome and facilitate such support, as appropriate.

Pot-pourri of issues discussed by speakers from all over the globe

Each year, the General Assembly conducts its general debate, during which Member States express their views on the full range of problems on the world agenda. During the 1995 general debate (25 September-11 October), 172 speakers came to the Assembly podium.

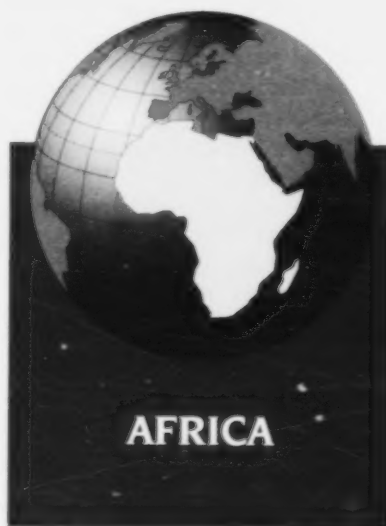
Some of the major issues discussed during the 17-day exercise were: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the external debt crisis; the growing economic chasm between developed and developing countries; the paramount importance of economic and social development; the reform of the 185-member UN that would include equitable representation on the Security Council and the enhancement of the General Assembly's role; the need for continued support for peace-keeping operations; the urgency of concluding a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and the vital necessity of eventual nuclear disarmament; the need for a drastic reduction in the proliferation of and trafficking in conventional arms; and the acute financial crisis gripping the Organization.

Several Member States believed that the UN should realign and strengthen its cooperation with regional organization especially in conflict prevention, management and resolution. There was support for the Secretary-General's suggestion to shift the emphasis of the UN from politics to global economic development.

Many States referred to security problems caused by anti-personnel land mines and other conventional weapons, calling for the control or ban of such weapons.

Most speakers expressed support for the results of the recent global conferences—in Cairo, Copenhagen, Rio de Janeiro and Beijing—and appealed for the means to implement those commitments.

There was strong support, especially from Nordic countries, for an assertive UN role in human rights-related issues, including the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.



Appeals for help to end civil conflicts and promote development figured heavily in the speeches of delegates from Africa—a vast continent inhabited by some 700 million people. Adversely affected by the consequences of what was seen as a growing economic imbalance between developed and developing countries, speakers urged the international community to take forceful steps to reverse both the "marginalization" of the continent and a disturbing decline in official development assistance (ODA). "It is no coincidence", Ugandan Foreign Minister Ruhakana Rugunda cautioned delegates attending the 50th General Assembly, "that our region, Africa, which is the least developed in the world, is also the most affected by strife and conflict."

In spite of its difficulties, it was asserted, Africa was determined to shoulder responsibility for its future. It was stated that the eradication of poverty, through provision of adequate educa-

tion, health care, housing and empowerment of women, had become a top priority of the UN system. A number of delegates called for the reform of the Bretton Woods system in order to make structural adjustment programmes more bearable and better adapted to specific needs of countries concerned. The Organization was also urged to give information technology transfer higher priority.

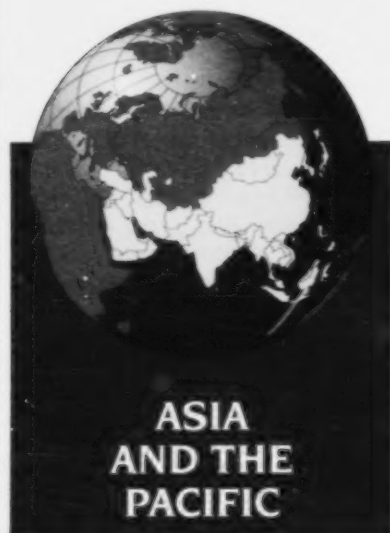
Many speakers pointed out that development, peace and democratization were inextricably bound, but needed continuing international support to flourish. Refugees and displaced persons—numbering in the millions—threatened peace and development in countries throughout the continent. The Great Lakes region, in particular, was the object of universal concern. The floodgate of refugees opened up by unrest and war in Rwanda and Burundi was causing instability in neighbouring countries. "The tragic fate of persons displaced because of civil war or violence is one of the major humanitarian problems of our age", Kamanda wa Kamanda, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zaire, declared. Many delegates looked forward to a conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region as an opportunity to address a wide range of inter-related problems.

The situations in Western Sahara, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Somalia and Sudan, as well as recent coup attempts in Sao Tome and Principe and the Comoros, were cited as causes for concern and summonses for action, with many delegates warning strongly that smouldering, local "powder kegs" could explode and spread their fire. There were widespread calls for international support for the mechanism for conflict resolution, prevention and management of the Organization of African Unity. A number of delegates also said that efforts needed to be made against the problems of terrorism, drugs and

THE NATIONS SPEAK

crime. Several speakers called for the lifting of the embargo against Libya.

Cited as successes by most speakers were Angola, Liberia, Mozambique and South Africa, although many cautioned that progress to date in some of those countries could be set back without generous international support for the ongoing democratization, rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Drought and desertification continued to hold back the development of many African countries. A number of speakers demanded that Africa should have a permanent seat on the Security Council.



Asian speakers dealt with a wide variety of topics that affected their far-flung region, among them, the still continuing disputes in Afghanistan and Kashmir, the Israeli-Palestinian accords, the preservation of democracy in the former republics of the Soviet Union, and the situation in Iraq.

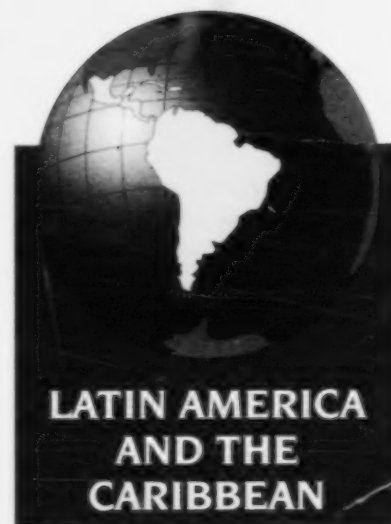
The countries of the Pacific almost unanimously condemned the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific and called on France to stop forthwith. The testing was "a slap in the face of the leaders of the South Pacific Forum and a violent crime against the people of the South Pacific", said Fijian Foreign Minister Filipe Nagera Bole. They were also concerned about global warming, rising tides and other

environmental issues which would affect the small island developing States more severely than other countries. A majority of speakers wanted the UN to pay more attention to developmental activities.

Pointing to the recent events that had taken place in the Comoros, speakers representing small States stressed that such events demonstrated once again their vulnerability to terrorism and to the activities of mercenaries. Delegates from the Gulf States expressed determination to overcome the negative effects of the two wars that had been fought in the region and to spare the region any further conflict. Iran and the United Arab Emirates were urged to settle peacefully the problem concerning the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra and Abu Musa.

Many speakers called for economic assistance to Palestinians to help solidify the peace process through development. The need for progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks was called for, and support was voiced to make South-East Asia and the Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zones. Concern was expressed about the shipment of hazardous and radioactive wastes to the South Pacific region. There was satisfaction with work to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, and States members of the Security Council, maritime users of the Indian Ocean and littoral countries were called upon to participate in that work.

There were some calls to lift sanctions against Iraq, asserting that the sanctions had had a very adverse effect on the Iraqi people. The issue of missing and detained Kuwaitis also needed to be resolved, it was pointed out. It was emphasized that Central Asian countries, facing a host of issues involving borders, the distribution of water and natural resources, and the right of ethnic minorities, needed international legal expertise to aid in the introduction of proven legal, political and socio-economic norms and regulations.



A number of speakers decried the continuing trade in illicit drugs and its harmful effects on peoples and Governments. Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Peña of Colombia, which currently presides over the 113-member Movement of Non-Aligned countries, called the problem of illegal drugs a "transnational crime of vast proportions, overwhelming dimensions and the greatest perils". He argued that there was now a historic opportunity to defeat drug trafficking once and for all. "Yet this opportunity could be missed if adequate measures are not immediately adopted to combat money laundering, the deviation of precursor chemicals and permissive consumption", he stressed.

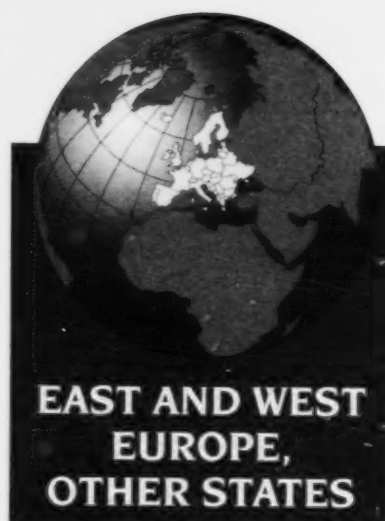
Mexican Foreign Minister José Angel Gurria proposed the holding of an international conference to work out new solutions to the drug problem. Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Omar Jaén Suárez said his country had offered its territory to establish a "multilateral centre to combat drug trafficking and related crimes" in the American hemisphere. United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher noted that the United States, through the UN Drug Control Programme, was providing help in

training law enforcement officials for countries whose laws are challenged by drug cartels.

Regional nuclear agreements such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established a nuclear-weapons-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, were seen as important examples for other areas of the world. The successful efforts by the Guarantor countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States—of the 1942 Rio Protocol to bring together Peru and Ecuador following their conflict were widely hailed. UN efforts in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti were applauded by many delegates.

There was a continuing need for vigorous support for the process of democratization in Latin America, it was stated. Calls were made for the lifting of the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Much of the delegates' attention focused on the human rights situation of indigenous peoples, and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was seen as an opportunity to give the issue increased attention. Ecuador pointed out that it had submitted concrete programmes and initiatives "designed to improve the economic, social and cultural status of those groups, while fully respecting their distinctive characteristics".

Delegates from the island States of the Caribbean were visibly concerned by the damage caused by a series of hurricanes. As Antigua and Barbuda put it: "Nature appeared to have declared war on us. The engine of our economy has stalled." Tourism—the main source of income—had been badly affected, and thousands of people had been made jobless. The delegates were also concerned about trade restrictions, particularly on the export of bananas to Europe, which could lead to economic disaster and even threaten democracy in the region.



Representatives from Eastern and Western Europe and from other States were concerned with how to deal with a "new set of security challenges": bloody ethnic conflicts, as in the former Yugoslavia; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; terrorism; international crime and narcotics; and deterioration of the environment. The key to increased global security lay in disarmament and arms control, delegates maintained.

Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey of Bosnia and Herzegovina hoped that the successful settlement of the war in his country could be a catalyst for strengthening regional and global security, but warned that a failure to honour basic UN Charter principles and international humanitarian law could be fatal to Bosnia and Herzegovina and threaten the UN's vitality and integrity. "We have already made many painful compromises", he stated. "We are prepared to make more—many more—in the search for a real peace. However, do not ask us—do not ask yourselves—to settle for concessions to dictatorships, to intolerance, to illegality, to criminality and hate."

A number of speakers observed that, although the collapse of communism had shattered dictatorships, bringing a "sense of exhilaration", it had also created numerous problems that threatened not only the political survival of newly liberated nations, but world stability as a

whole. Some delegates suggested that cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in peace-keeping endeavours should be further explored. It was pointed out that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe had already developed a mechanism for preventive diplomacy, establishment of confidence-building measures and resolution of conflicts.

Acting through the UN, the international community would be able to effectively meet challenges of the post-confrontational world, delegates believed. "A sense of global responsibility and "awareness of an era of global society" were spreading, according to Turkish Foreign Minister Gdral İnönü. In a report entitled *"Towards a Rapid Reaction Capacity for the United Nations"*, Canada proposed the assembly of a "multinational force of up to 5,000 military and civilian personnel" and, with the Security Council's authorization, "quickly deploy it under the control of an operational-level headquarters" responsible for the advance preparations. That was "crucial if rapid reaction is to work", Foreign Minister André Ouellet stated.

A number of Eastern European representatives felt that violent inter-ethnic and nationalistic conflicts stood in the way of creating a new model of general and comprehensive security in Europe—"without double standards or dividing lines"—and precluded the region's reintegration with the rest of the world.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Spanish Foreign Minister Don Javier Solana Madariaga stated that mankind was facing a "growing number of emergencies that require an effective response from the international community in order to alleviate the tragedy suffered daily by tens of thousands of human beings". Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udoenko proposed that 1996, which marked the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, be declared the Year of the Commemoration of Chernobyl. He urged special activities be organized under UN auspices. ■

Comprehensive nuclear-test ban declared 'highest priority'

Conclusion of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty was a "task of the highest priority", the General Assembly declared on 12 December.

Acting on the recommendation of its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), the Assembly, by resolution 50/65, called upon all States participating in the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament—the world's sole multilateral disarmament body—particularly the nuclear-weapons States, to conclude such a treaty, so as to enable its signature by the outset of the Assembly's fifty-first session.

In strongly deploring "all current nuclear testing", the Assembly strongly urged (50/70 A) its "immediate cessation" and called (50/70 C) for the "determined pursuit by nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goals of eliminating those weapons".

A total of 46 resolutions—22 without a vote—and three decisions had been approved by the First Committee, as it continued to review disarmament and international security matters in the post-cold-war era.

In noting with satisfaction (50/68) that in the Conference on Disarmament there was "no objection, in principle", to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the Assembly appealed for an "early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character".

First Committee Chairman Luvsangiin Erdenechuluun of Mongolia on 21 November declared that, amidst a "great emotional outcry" over nuclear non-proliferation issues and "other recent developments", the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty by 1996

had been "supported by an overwhelming majority of delegations", he stated.

Also, three nuclear-weapon States—France, the United Kingdom and the United States—had announced their intention to sign and ratify, early in 1996, additional protocols to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga).

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty)—adopted at the June 1995 Addis Ababa summit session of the Organization of African Unity—was hailed (50/78) as an "event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons". At the same time, the Assembly recognized the "right of African countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to accelerate the economic and social development of their peoples".

Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East (50/66) and in South Asia (50/67) was also urged. The Assembly, in welcoming the accession on 26 September 1995 of the United Arab Emirates to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), called upon (50/73) Israel and all other States in the region not yet party to the NPT "not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons", to renounce their possession and accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date.

By another text (50/77), full adherence of Santa Lucia to the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the Treaty's ratification by Saint Kitts and Nevis on 18 April 1995 were noted with satisfaction.

Other nuclear-related resolutions dealt with: prevention of an arms race in outer space (50/69); the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT (50/70 Q); bilater-

al nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament (50/70 I, N, P and R); amendment of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (50/64); and convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (50/71 E).

Nuclear and 'micro-disarmament' addressed by Marrack Goulding

Two agreements—a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and a treaty on the cut-off of fissile materials production—would "open the way to negotiations on further quantitative reductions in nuclear weapons", Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, told the First Committee on 16 October.

Also, "micro-disarmament"—a set of measures to deal with specific, pragmatic and achievable goals in the area of conventional weapons—could help "tackle the problems of excessive and uncontrolled conventional armaments" in regions of the world that were "especially vulnerable to conflict at the present time". Mr. Goulding said, in expressing the views of the Secretary-General. There was an inescapable link between security and development, and the "issues of conflict" could not be resolved "without tackling the issues of economic and social development, or vice versa".

In urging prompt ratifications of the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, he also noted that the Convention was still 25 "short of the necessary 65 ratifications".

Blinding lasers, environmental concerns

A new instrument—Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) annexed to the 1981 Convention on

Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects—approved by a Review Conference of the parties to the Convention on 13 October, was commended (50/74) by the Assembly to all States, with a view to achieving the “widest possible adherence” at an early date. The Assembly also urgently called upon all States that had not yet done so to “take all measures to become parties” to the Convention and its Protocols.

By resolution 50/70 E, it asked all States to take appropriate measures to prevent “any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States”. Grave concern was also expressed regarding “any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States”.

In resolution 50/70 M, the Assembly called on all States parties to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, to ensure that the implementation of both treaties was “environmentally sound”.

Regional security, illicit arms trade, land mines

In affirming that “global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously”, the Assembly called upon (50/70/ K) States to conclude agreements for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures. It also decided (50/70 L) to give “urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels”.

Member States were invited (50/70 J) to take “appropriate and effective enforcement measures” to ensure that illicit transfers of arms were “immediately discontinued”, and to implement

(50/70 H) national control measures in order to “check the illicit circulation of small arms, in particular by curbing the illegal exports of such arms”.

Also, in realizing that “arms obtained through the illicit arms trade are most likely to be used for violent purposes” and that even small arms when so obtained, directly or indirectly, by terrorist groups, drug traffickers or underground organizations could pose a “danger to regional and international security, and certainly to the security and political stability of the countries affected”, the General Assembly asked the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject (50/70 B).

States that had not yet declared moratoria on the export of anti-personnel landmines were urged (50/70 O) to do so “at the earliest possible date”, and further international efforts to seek solutions to the problems caused by such mines, with the view to their eventual elimination, were encouraged.

The Assembly decided (50/70 F) to convene its fourth special session on disarmament in 1997, an “opportune time to review the progress in the entire field of disarmament in the post-cold-war era”. Three previous special sessions had been held in 1978, 1982 and 1988.

Other action included texts on: transparency in armaments and verification (50/70 D and 50/61); compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements (50/60); relationship between disarmament and devel-

opment (50/70 G); the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (50/62 and 50/63); regional confidence-building measures (50/71 B); review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly’s tenth special



One of the world’s many mine victims—here from Cambodia—practises walking on his prosthetic leg.

session (50/72 A-D); strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (50/75); implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (50/76); status of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (50/79); permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (50/80 A); and development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States (50/80 B). ■

Global financial integration: a new priority

Poverty Eradication Decade proclaimed

Meeting head-on a new challenge in the international arena—achieving global financial integration following the conclusion in 1994 of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations—the fiftieth General Assembly asked the International Monetary Fund to play a stronger and central role “in surveillance of all countries” for potential sources of destabilization of capital markets, with the aim of promoting transparency and stability in those markets and promoting growth. That surveillance would include the regular, timely provision of economic and financial data.

Echoing the growing concern expressed by many political and financial experts that a significant number of developing countries had become “more vulnerable, in the course of liberalizing their external economic and financial regimes, to the volatile fluctuations of private capital flows in international financial markets”, the Assembly, in resolution 50/91, underscored the need to encourage the flow of private capital, particularly to developing countries, while reducing the risks of such volatility. “In a globalized world”, it stressed, “sound fiscal and monetary policy in each country is among the elements essential in preventing crises relating to capital flows.”

During the session, the Assembly adopted over 40 resolutions recommended by its Second Committee (Economic and Financial), which included issues such as trade, development assistance, debt relief, support for democratization, the environment, population, women, human settlements, Africa, Central America and the Chernobyl disaster. All but two—on assistance to the Palestinian people and on coercive economic measures—were adopted without a vote. (*See special articles on Chernobyl, the environment, human settlements and women in this issue.*)

Trade, UNCTAD

The perils and promises of financial and trade globalization were a priority focus of the fiftieth Assembly. To generate sustained economic growth and sustainable development, it stressed (50/95) the need to continue trade liberalization, eliminate discriminatory and protectionist trade practices, and improve access to the markets of all countries, in particular those of the developed countries. Also stressed was the need for full integration into the world economy of the so-called “economies in transition”, which include the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

“
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”

Reaffirming the role of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the UN’s focal point for the integrated treatment of development and inter-related issues in trade, finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development, the Assembly asked UNCTAD’s ninth session to consider the future role of the Conference, including its relationship with other international institutions, to make it more effective in promoting development. There should be constructive and effective cooperation between UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization, “based on the complementarity of their functions”, it added. The Assembly also decided (50/98) to convene UNCTAD IX in

Midrand, Gauteng Province, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May 1996.

Out of concern that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries impacted negatively both on those countries’ development and on “worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open trading system”, the Assembly asked (50/96) the UN and UNCTAD to monitor the imposition of those measures and prepare possible methodologies or criteria for evaluating their effects.

Reaffirming “the right of access of land-locked developing countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport”, the Assembly called on (50/97) land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to strengthen cooperative efforts in dealing with related problems. Progress in the development of transit systems is to be reviewed at an expert meeting planned for 1997.

Social Summit action

Durable and development-oriented solutions to the external debt problems of developing countries could contribute substantially to the strengthening of the global economy and to efforts to achieve sustained economic growth, the General Assembly stressed (50/92). Conversion programmes, such as debt-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps and debt-for-child-development swaps, could assist countries in their development efforts. Also, techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects should be created, in conformity with the priorities of the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen.

Addressing another development priority, the Assembly proclaimed (50/107) the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), after declaring in recent sessions 17 October the International Day and 1996

the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Activities during the Year should be guided by principles that include: adoption of policies to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-rearing, widowhood, disability and old age; access of all people living in poverty to basic social services, as well as their participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society; and cost-effectiveness.

Earth Summit to Habitat II

The proclamation of the Poverty Eradication Decade was only one of several Assembly decisions that reflected the hard-won consensus reached at recent UN development-related conferences. This was also evident in a series of environment and development resolutions, including a decision (50/113) to convene a one-week special session, in June 1997, to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21—the action programme adopted by the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, also known as the Earth Summit. In endorsing the report and decisions of the eighteenth session of the UN Environment Programme's Governing Council, the Assembly recognized (50/110) in particular four decisions concerning the Programme's role and priorities, in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, sustainable development, and "good environmental house-keeping" within the UN system.

Action on those issues also focused on reaffirming commitments on administrative and procedural matters, with the Assembly taking note of the results of the first sessions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nassau, Bahamas in December 1994, (50/111) and to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Berlin in April 1995 (50/115), concerning the location of their respective secretariats—Biological Diversity in Canada and Climate Change in Germany. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Com-

bat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification should continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the States parties (50/112).

The international community was asked (50/116) to implement the commitments and recommendations of the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Assembly also decided that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996) be held at UN Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996.

Women, population

The continued lack of equal access to education and training, and of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production by women impeded their opportunity to benefit from development activities, the Assembly emphasized (50/104) in calling for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted by the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. Governments were urged to "ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources, and to increase women's access to credit by instituting innovative lending practices", which included integrating credit with services and training for women and providing flexible credit facilities.

An integrated approach to human resources development should be adopted that maintained a gender perspective and incorporated areas such as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, according to the Assembly (50/105).

The Commission on Population and Development was asked (50/123) to consider in 1997 the interrelationship between international migration and development, and the Economic and Social Council was invited to consider international migration and development as a theme of its agenda for 1997. International cooperation in that area should be strengthened in order to address the root causes of migration, es-

pecially those related to poverty. In endorsing the Council's decision to enlarge the Commission's membership from 27 to 47, the Assembly said (50/124) follow-up to the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development should take into account the factors of population, health, education, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women, and the environment.

Development activities

In a triennial policy review, the Assembly urged (50/120) substantial increase in the funding for UN operational activities for development, in line with the increasing needs of developing countries. Capacity-building should be an essential focus of those activities of the UN system at the country level. For the next review, it requested an evaluation of their impact.

The Assembly endorsed (50/119) the recommendations on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, which included adoption of a more strategic orientation, focusing on priority issues such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, education, health and technology transfer. A new biennial report on "State of South-South cooperation" was requested, containing a comprehensive overview of South-South economic and technical cooperation, as well as recommendations.

Calling the contribution of new and emerging technologies "vital" to the promotion of economic growth of developing countries in particular, the Assembly urged (50/101) the international community to meet Agenda 21's objectives concerning access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to those countries on favourable terms.

Stressing that "many least developed countries, for their part, have been implementing courageous and far-reaching policy reforms and adjustment measures" without the corresponding progress in achieving the objectives of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

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Member States urged (50/103) continued international support.

Action on Africa

The UN was asked (50/102) to continue to promote and implement activities in support of science and technology in Africa in the context of the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In this regard, the Secretary-General would also make concrete proposals on activities to be carried out in 1996.

On the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002), the UN system, the Organization of African Unity and other development "partners" were asked (50/94) to play a more effective, active role in implementing the programme for the Decade, while keeping in mind the undertakings made in the New Agenda.

Countries and organizations that had not yet established contact and relationships with the Southern African Development Community should consider doing so, the Assembly requested (50/118). Continued international assistance was urged in addressing the drought situation in the southern African region, especially through strengthening the capacity of the Community in drought mitigation and monitoring, early warning and preparedness.

Small business, health

Valuing the promotion of entrepreneurship in the development of small-sized and medium-sized enterprises and industries by civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures, the Assembly invited (50/106) Member States to provide infrastructure services, and encourage private-sector cost-effective involvement in the construction, use and maintenance of infrastructure.

It endorsed (50/128) the strategies and work plans developed through a collaborative process by the UN system, with the World Health Organization (WHO) as task coordinator, to provide optimal support to affected developing countries for the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The May 1995 agreement

between WHO and Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo of Colombia, by which he donated to the Organization the license of the patent rights and know-how related to the SPf66 anti-malarial vaccine he developed, was welcomed as an example of solidarity and effective South-South cooperation for development. WHO's request for additional resources for malaria research to develop an effective vaccine for that disease's control was supported.

In other action, the Assembly:

- ◆ Welcomed the decision of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN to convene a World Food Summit in Rome, from 13 to 17 November 1996, and invited Governments to participate actively in Summit preparations (50/109).

- ◆ Called for the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions concerning water resources and water supply and sanitation, and of recommendations for Governments to accord high priority to programmes designed to provide basic sanitation systems to urban and rural areas (50/126).

- ◆ Established a target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme of \$1.3 billion for the period 1997-1998. A pledging conference should be convened at UN Headquarters in 1996 (50/127).

- ◆ Invited the Secretary-General to develop a proposal for an international early warning mechanism for natural disasters, as part of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World and its Plan of Action, adopted on 27 May 1994 at the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (50/117 B).

- ◆ By a vote of 126 to 2 (Israel, United States), with 28 abstentions, reaffirmed that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 were illegal and an obstacle to development (50/129).

- ◆ Agreed to hold a high-level dialogue for two days at the Assembly's fifty-first session on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications. The date, modalities and focus of the discussions are to be decided (50/122). ■

Poverty Eradication Year Launched

On 18 December, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali launched the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The following is excerpted from his statement:

The facts about poverty are now well known. But too often they are ignored. More than 1.3 billion people are struggling to survive on less than one single dollar each day. Five years ago, the number was 300 million persons fewer. In 1990, the per capita income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of the world's population was 60 times greater than that of the poorest 20 per cent. Thirty years earlier, it was only 30 times greater. More than 1 billion persons lack access to basic needs like safe water and sanitation. Over 3 million people die each year from preventable diseases like tuberculosis and malaria. More than 130 million children, mostly girls, do not go to school. In the one hour that we are dedicating to this ceremony, 1,400 children below five

years of age will die from malnourishment and preventable childhood diseases.

How can we allow this to go on?

An ethical progression of humanity takes place when moral ideals lead to specific legal obligations. The next step in this progression must be to accept that persisting poverty is not only inconsistent with social harmony and a durable political order, but morally wrong.

It is a major cause of violent crime, ethnic clashes and social disarray. How can one expect the poor to feel any real sense of commitment to social structures, when they appear to nourish poverty? Small wonder that Heads of State and Government at the fiftieth anniversary session of the United Nations' General Assembly unanimously recognized that action to secure global peace, security and stability will be futile unless the economic and social needs of people are addressed.

Assembly calls for intensified cooperation among States to combat drug abuse

The General Assembly on 21 December acted on issues of drug control, social development and crime prevention, on the recommendation of its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

Under a seven-part resolution (50/148) on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking, the Assembly called upon States to intensify actions to promote effective cooperation in efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and urged them to ratify or accede to and implement the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. States were also called upon to adopt adequate national laws and regulations to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities, in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments.

It was acknowledged that there were links between the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic and social conditions in the affected countries. The international community was called upon to provide increased economic and technical support to Governments that requested it for programmes of alternative and sustainable development "that have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production and take fully into account the cultural traditions of peoples".

States were called upon to increase efforts to reduce and eliminate illegal crops from which narcotics were obtained, as well as to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs, and to implement the mandates and recommendations of the 1994 Global Programme of Ac-

tion, with a view to translating it into practical action for drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs was asked to discuss fully at its thirtieth session the proposal to hold a second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking to review progress made by Governments and the UN system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and to present its conclusions and suggestions to the Assembly's 1996 session. Governments were urged to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the UN International Drug Control Programme.

1999: International Year of Older Persons

The Assembly invited (50/141) Member States to adapt the conceptual framework of a programme for the preparation and observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999 to national conditions, and to consider formulating national programmes for the Year. It also invited UN organizations and bodies concerned to identify areas for expanding upon the conceptual framework, which has four facets—the situation of older persons, lifelong individual development, multigenerational relationships, and the relationship between the ageing of populations and development.

Family-friendly societies

By resolution 50/142 on follow-up to the International Year of the Family, observed in 1994, the Assembly invited Governments to continue to build family-friendly societies by, among other things, promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and child protection and development. Governments were urged to ratify and accede to and ensure implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that

universal ratification could be achieved by the year 2000, and to take urgent measure to achieve universal ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child before the end of 1995.

Literacy

The Assembly appealed anew (50/143) to Governments and economic and financial organizations to lend greater financial and material support to efforts to increase literacy and achieve education for all. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was called upon to continue assuming the role of lead organization in ensuring an effective follow-up to the International Literacy Year, which was observed in 1990, and to pursue the implementation of the World Declaration on Education for All.

The disabled

Governments were called upon (50/144), when implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, to take into account the elements suggested in the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond. They were also urged to continue to strengthen their efforts to implement the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities by appropriate legal, administrative and other measures.

Crime

In the first of three texts on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, the Assembly endorsed (50/145) the resolutions adopted by the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995. Governments were invited to be guided by the resolutions and recommendations of the Congress in formulating legislation and policy directives and to

THIRD COMMITTEE

make efforts to implement them.

The Assembly stressed (50/146) the importance of continuing to improve the operational activities of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly in developing countries and those in transition. States and funding agencies were called upon to make significant financial contributions for operational activities.

The Assembly appealed (50/147) to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical support to the UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. The Secretary-General was asked to ensure that the Institute was provided with adequate funds, within the overall appropriation of the

programme budget and from extra-budgetary resources, and the Administrator of the UN Development Programme was asked to continue providing appropriate funds for the strengthening of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work, taking into account the difficult economic and financial situation faced by many African countries. ■

FOURTH COMMITTEE

Peace-keeping, decolonization, information matters reviewed

Peace-keeping

The General Assembly on 6 December, in stressing the need for the UN to "continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peace-keeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peace-keeping missions", urged Member States, the UN Secretariat and relevant organs to take all necessary steps to: improve the peace-keepers' safety and security, complete a code of conduct for them, strengthen peace-keeping training programmes, and seek further progress on stand-by arrangements, including the development of a rapidly deployable Headquarters team of personnel skilled in essential military and civilian functions.

Acting on the recommendation of its Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), the Assembly, by resolution 50/30, also stated that additional costs resulting from any of those proposals should be accommodated within the appropriation levels approved by the Assembly.

Information

By its two resolutions on "information in the service of humanity", the Assembly called upon (50/31 A) all countries and the UN system as a whole to "cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels", and ensure for journalists the "free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them".

Also, while urging "all efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination" of the UN Department of Public Information's major publications—in particular the *UN Chronicle*, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* and *Africa Recovery*—the Assembly asked (50/31 B) the Secretary-General to "increase his efforts for the early resumption of the publication *Development Forum*, or an alternative system-wide publication".

Decolonization

In an omnibus resolution (50/38 A and B) on 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories—American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands—the Assembly, among other things, asked the administering Powers to take "all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation".

Separate resolutions were adopted on Western Sahara (50/36) and New Caledonia (50/37).

Other texts dealt with: information on economic, social and educational conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (50/32); activities of foreign economic and other interests impeding the implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Inde-

pendence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (50/33); implementation of the 1960 Declaration by specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the UN (50/34); offers by Member States of study and training facilities for the Territories' inhabitants (50/35); Gibraltar (decision 50/415); and military activities by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (50/412).

Other matters

Approving a total of 31 texts—26 resolutions and 5 decisions—the Fourth Committee also considered a variety of other issues: the effects of atomic radiation (50/26); international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (50/27); activities of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (50/28 A-G); and report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs of the occupied territories (50/29 A-D).

By a separate decision, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was admitted to the Committee on Information, which brought its total membership to 89.

The Assembly also decided to defer consideration of two of its agenda items—the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia, and the composition of the UN relevant organs—until its fifty-first session. ■

Tough, no-growth budget for 1996-1997

UN Photo 191636CM Grant

Appropriations amounting to just under \$2.61 billion for the UN regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 were adopted without a vote on 23 December by the General Assembly. Income for the same period was estimated at \$471.4 million. A tough zero-growth budget, the total was \$24 million less than spending approved for 1994-1995.

As projected expenditures represented a provisional total of \$2.71 billion, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was asked to report back no later than 31 March 1996 with proposals to achieve the necessary \$104 million in additional savings. This would be effected by identifying efficiency gains above and beyond other reductions already contained in the new budget.

Budget appropriations for 1996 were set at \$1.3 billion, of which \$1.29 billion would come from assessments on Member States. At the resolution's adoption, there was a balance of \$19.4 million in the contingency fund (*resolutions 50/205 A and B, 50/215 A-C, and 50/216 (VIII)*).

Also for 1996-1997, the Assembly established a \$100-million level for the Working Capital Fund. If that was not sufficient, the Secretary-General could use cash from special funds and accounts in his custody, it said (*50/218*).

(After exhausting the Working Capital Fund for 1995 in early August, the UN was forced to borrow from peace-keeping operations and the special account to finance the regular budget.)

After the budget's approval, several speakers voiced their satisfaction with the results. "Although this budget is not as lean as my Government originally proposed, it is perhaps the most austere ever adopted by the General Assembly", the United States representative said. The budget included a number of significant reform measures and marked "another in a series of significant steps towards a more effective, efficient and accountable United Nations", he declared, calling the Organization "unique and indispensable".



Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (centre) addresses the General Assembly's High-level Working Group on the Financial Situation of the UN. On the right is Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral, and on the left is Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management Joseph E. Connor.

Canada, in welcoming the programme budget, suggested that the newly-formed efficiency board established by the Secretary-General be asked to help identify further savings. However, with outstanding dues totalling 35 per cent of the regular budget's assessment for 1995, it stressed that "the real constraint lies not in the established level of expenditures, but in the corresponding level of contributions when those expenditures are assessed".

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The most
austere budget
ever
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Resolution 50/218 on the Working Capital Fund did not give the Secretary-General a "blank cheque to fund the deficits of major contributors through

enforced borrowing from peace-keeping accounts", the United Kingdom emphasized. Borrowing from peace-keeping funds to finance the regular budget was unacceptable, and the accumulation of more arrears by one Member State could only increase the financial risk to the Organization.

Cuba felt that "the spirit that guided the founders" of the UN had not been reflected in the new budget. Instead, it had responded to the "hegemonic" and political interests of the major contributor and could be "the first in a series of measures leading, in essence, not to the reform but to the destruction" of the UN.

Peace-keeping funds approved

Based on recommendations of its Fifth Committee, the Assembly also authorized funds for UN peace-keeping operations in Haiti, Lebanon, Western Sahara, Angola, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Liberia, as well as for financing the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia through the first quarter of 1996.

A feasibility study on procedures for valuing and transferring the costs of

FIFTH COMMITTEE

assets redeployed from a peace-keeping operation in liquidation to other missions or UN bodies was requested on an urgent basis. Proposals for establishing a policy for physically verifying the assets and liabilities of a mission in liquidation before its assets were disposed of, and for the financial accounting of the transfer of those assets, were also asked (50/204 A-D).

Other action

A cost-accounting system for conference services would be developed under a six-part resolution on the pattern of conferences (50/206 A-F). Efforts to improve the cost effectiveness of docu-

ment production should continue "without prejudice to the international character of the Organization", according to the Assembly, which also asked for "restraint" in requests for new reports.

In other texts, the Assembly:

- ◆ Approved \$2.63 billion for spending in 1994-1995, as adjusted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

- ◆ Requested the Committee on Contributions to hold a special one-week session in 1996 to receive the views of some Member States on the application of Article 19 of the UN Charter concerning arrears in contributions to the budget;

- ◆ Authorized \$7.1 million for the UN Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala for the period 1 January to 31 March 1996, and \$2.3 million monthly for the period beyond should the Mission be extended beyond that date;

- ◆ Approved expenses of \$40.2 million net for the management of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund for 1996-1997, which would be charged directly to the Fund;

- ◆ Approved a subvention of \$220,000 from the regular budget for 1996 for the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. ■

SIXTH COMMITTEE

Preparatory Committee established to draft Convention for International Criminal Court

The General Assembly on 11 December established a Preparatory Committee to draft a widely acceptable consolidated text of a convention for an international criminal court, as a next step towards consideration by a conference of plenipotentiaries.

In adopting resolution 50/46, the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee would meet in 1996, from 25 March to 12 April and from 12 to 30 August, to consider major issues arising out of the draft statute for the court, prepared by the International Law Commission (ILC). It would report in 1996 to the Assembly, which urged participation in Committee activities by the largest number of States, in order to promote universal support for the court.

The Assembly also on 11 December adopted 12 other resolutions and one decision, on the recommendation of its Sixth Committee (Legal).

In resolution 50/52 on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

(A/50/33), the Assembly expressed its intention to amend the UN Charter, with prospective effect, by the deletion of the "enemy State" clauses from the UN Charter at its earliest appropriate future session. The text was adopted by a vote of 155 to none, with 3 abstentions (Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya). The Assembly asked the Special Committee to consider in 1996 all proposals concerning the maintenance of international peace and security, the strengthening of the role of the Organization, and the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Security Council, and to recommend priorities. It was decided that membership in the Special Committee should be open to all Member States and that it should continue to operate on the basis of consensus.

By resolution 50/50 on UN Model Rules for the Conciliation of Disputes between States, the Assembly commended the Special Committee for having completed the final text of the Model Rules, originally proposed by Guatemala. It drew the attention of

States to the possibility of applying them in disputes which could not be solved through direct negotiations, and asked the Secretary-General to assist States resorting to such conciliation. The Rules, in ten chapters, were annexed to the resolution.

Sanctions

Under resolution 50/51 on the implementation of Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to collate, assess and analyse information, at the request of the Security Council and its organs, on the effect of sanctions regimes on third States and advise the Council on adjustments that might be made to mitigate their adverse effects, while maintaining the effectiveness of the regimes.

The Assembly adopted and opened for signature or accession (50/48) the UN Convention on Independent Guarantees and Stand-by Letters of Credit, drafted by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

SIXTH COMMITTEE

It recognized the uncertainty and lack of uniformity prevailing among various legal systems in that field, and expressed the conviction that adoption of the Convention would contribute to overcoming such problems and facilitate the use of such instruments. Governments were called upon to consider becoming party to the Convention.

By resolution 50/49 on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (A/50/26), the host country was urged to consider lifting travel controls on certain diplomatic missions and UN Secretariat staff members of certain nationalities. The Assembly expressed the hope that the host country would continue to take measures to prevent any interference with the functioning of such missions, and endorsed a series of recommendations of the Committee regarding, among other things, the problem of diplomatic indebtedness. It also endorsed the Committee's recommendation that permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat staff members should meet their financial obligations promptly and in full.

The Assembly urged (50/45) the ILC to complete during the Commission's 1996 session its second reading of the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, and the first reading of the draft articles on State responsibility, taking into account the divergent views expressed during the Sixth Committee's debate on the topic, so that alternative approaches may be developed when necessary. The ILC was also urged to complete its first reading of the draft articles relating to activities that risked causing transboundary harm.

Trusteeship Council

By resolution 50/55, the Secretary-General was asked to invite Member States to submit their written comments on the future of the Trusteeship Council and to report those comments to the Assembly before the end of its fiftieth session.

By resolution 50/54, the Assembly, noting that the procedure provided for under article 11 of the statute of the UN Administrative Tribunal had not

proved to be a constructive or useful element in the adjudication of staff disputes within the Organization, decided to delete that article, while continuing to apply it to any judgements made by the Tribunal prior to 1 January 1996.

The Assembly, by resolution 50/47, commended UNCITRAL for the progress it had made in the preparation of a draft Model Law on Legal Aspects of Electronic Data Interchange and Related Means of Communication, as well as in the preparation of draft Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings. It welcomed the Commission's decision to commence work on the subjects of receivables financing and cross-border insolvency, and to consider the feasibility and desirability of undertaking work on negotiability and transferability of electronic data interchange transport documents.

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All acts, methods
and practices
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unjustifiable
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The Assembly strongly condemned (50/53) all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, and urged all States to promote and implement effectively and in good faith the provisions of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted on 9 December 1994. States were urged to strengthen cooperation with one another to ensure that those who participated in terrorist activities, whatever

the nature of their participation, found no safe haven anywhere. States were called upon to implement their obligations under existing conventions, observe fully the principles of international law and contribute to the further development of international law on that matter. The Secretary-General was asked to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration.

International law

By resolution 50/43 on the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to provide in 1996 and 1997 fellowships and scholarships in international law, and travel grants for regional courses to participants from developing countries. It approved the appointment of 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme, for a period of four years beginning 1 January 1996. States and international organizations were urged to implement the goals of the UN Decade of International Law (1990-1999), dealing with the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

Under resolution 50/44 on the UN Decade of International Law, the Assembly welcomed recent advances made by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs in its programme of computerization of the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* and the *UN Treaty Series*, and encouraged the Office to continue its efforts to bring up to date the publications of the *UN Treaty Series* and the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*.

The Assembly decided to bring to Member States' attention the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and the draft optional protocols thereto. Member States were reminded of the possibility that that field of international law and any further developments within it might be subject to codification at an appropriate time in the future. ■

STOP PRESS: FINANCIAL CRISIS

On brink of bankruptcy, UN makes cuts ... but debt dampens reform

Secretary-General calls for a special session

Labelling the UN's deepening financial crisis his "top priority", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 6 February called for a resumed or special session of the General Assembly in 1996 to adopt a comprehensive plan to restore the Organization's financial soundness and "give a boost" to the overall reform effort. While he would continue to do everything to avoid a collapse, he emphasized that only the Member States "can take the major decisions necessary" to back the UN away from the "edge of insolvency".

Speaking before the Assembly's High-level Open-Ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the UN—one of five similar groups considering reform efforts—Mr. Boutros-Ghali also proposed a possible 15 to 20 per cent ceiling on a Member State's assessed contribution to the UN's regular budget, which he suggested "would better reflect the fact that this Organization is indeed the instrument of all nations".

As of 31 January, outstanding assessed contributions to the UN totalled over \$3.3 billion—an unprecedented level. Of that amount, \$1.4 billion was owed to the regular budget and another \$1.9 billion to peace-keeping operations worldwide. Unpaid assessments by Member States for periods prior to the current year amounted to \$2.2 billion, of which \$1.2 billion, or over half, was owed by the United States—the largest single contributor. The second highest unpaid balance for prior periods was \$400 million, racked up by the Russian Federation, which recently committed itself to pay its arrears within seven years. Ukraine holds the number three spot.

The past ten years have seen a rising pattern of unpaid assessments, according to UN figures. Out of 185 Member States, only about 10 are fully paid up for prior periods, although all are required to pay their assessments for each year by the end of that January.



Joseph E. Connor,
Under-Secretary-General for
Administration and Management

"The key to progress at this point", Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded, "is action on the financial crisis. As long as it remains unresolved, all other efforts to cut back, reform or restructure cannot possibly succeed, and the fate of the Organization itself is in danger."

The Secretary-General has already begun a series of steps to improve the UN's performance and efficiency. Laying out his management concept in his annual report on the work of the Organization (A/50/I), he called for a "mission-driven and result-oriented Organization", with streamlined administrative procedures, decentralization and greater innovation. Among the new changes, the Secretary-General has also encouraged greater accountability from managers, established an Efficiency Board, instituted cash conservation measures, restricted travel and recruitment, and advanced the use of up-to-date information technologies.

After taking office, Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral of Portugal began meeting at least monthly with the five high-level working groups addressing reform-related issues, in an effort to coordinate their work and avoid duplication. Apart

from the financial situation, the four other groups concern: strengthening the UN system; reform of the Security Council; the *Agenda for Development*; and the *Agenda for Peace*. Much of the groups' preparatory work has been completed, with further work scheduled between 15 January and the end of March. A second round of meetings will begin in April. The intent, the Assembly President said on 21 December 1995, is to "reach conclusions in all those working groups and put them together in a global package" for UN reform before the end of the Assembly's fiftieth session.

Significant downsizing

On 5 February, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management Joseph E. Connor told the working group on the financial crisis that the UN was "sliding toward bankruptcy", as Member States mandated the UN to pay out more than it took in.

The Secretary-General was being asked by the Assembly, in effect, to handle a significant downsizing, in addition to instituting further efficiency gains, all without affecting the delivery of mandated programmes, Mr. Connor stressed. After identifying almost \$100 million in efficiency gains and other reductions in his 1996-1997 programme budget, Mr. Boutros-Ghali was then asked to find another \$104 million in savings, as well as \$50 million in arbitrary reductions in funding of General Service, mainly secretarial, support staff.

Mr. Connor estimated that by 30 June the level of cash available to the Organization would start "a deep, continuous decline". In addition, the UN would have to begin cutting its staff by as much as 10 per cent.

Worldwide, UN Secretariat staff number 14,188, including those working with various peace-keeping operations. There are 4,831 staff working at UN Headquarters in New York.



United States Ambassador
Madeleine K. Albright

Mr. Connor—the former Chairman of the accounting firm Price Waterhouse—emphasized that the “prospect of significant cash savings through further fine-tuning the cost of delivery” of programmes could not be achieved, adding that “doing more with less does not mean doing everything with nothing”.

“Simply speaking, the United Nations is facing a financing gap—not a cost reduction gap”, he stressed.

United States, others call for trimmer UN

In a speech on 15 January before the working group on strengthening the UN, United States Permanent Representative Madeleine K. Albright called for a trimmed down, more efficient Organization, saying that the UN system should be “no larger than it needs to be, as modern as it can be, and as efficient as sound management can cause it to be”. A UN “that tries to do everything will do nothing very well”, she said.

Tagging the recently approved zero-growth budget a “legislative mandate for reform”, she urged further measures. Among the steps the United States is suggesting: a new post of Deputy Secretary-General “responsible for administering the Organization on a day-to-day basis”; fewer departments; zero-based budgeting; a “sunset” policy, so that “only programmes of continuing value receive financing”; a reinvigorated Economic and Social Council that would “assume its intended role as the principal UN policy-maker and coordinator in its areas of responsibility”; and an enhanced General Assembly that would “take the place of expensive global conferences”.

Ambassador Albright praised the Secretary-General's launching of a new personnel appraisal system and the Efficiency Board, as well as the creation of a new Office of Internal Oversight Services, the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights and the five working groups on reform, saying these initiatives provided “a foundation upon which a far-reaching programme of reform may be built”.

“

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”

Under a comprehensive package presented to the working group on the financial situation on 25 January by Italy on behalf of the European Union, contributions of Union members to the UN's regular budget would increase. The Czech Republic, Poland and Romania associated themselves with the proposals.

A firm and clear commitment from all Member States to acquit their arrears and pay future contributions promptly and in full was an “indispens-

able counterpart” to the European Union's proposals.

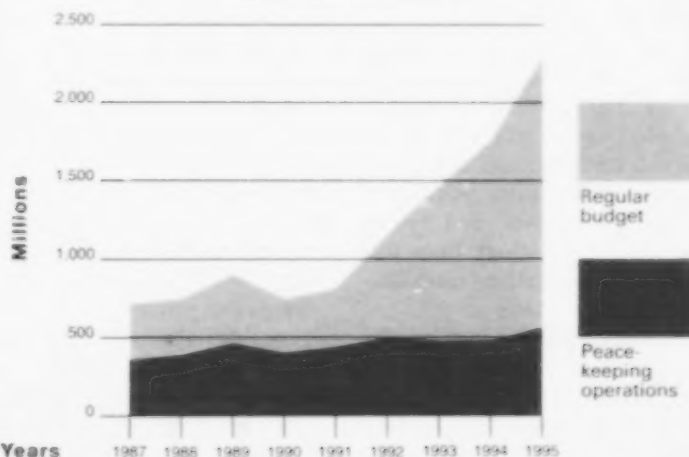
As outlined, the package also calls for the adoption of “a more equitable and transparent” scale that would adjust automatically to altered economic situations, take into account the needs of countries with a low per capita income, provide for a “fixed premium” for permanent Security Council members on the peace-keeping scale of assessments, and include incentives and penalties.

At a press conference that day, Italy's Permanent Representative Francesco Paolo Fulci said it was time for the working group to stop talking and start acting. “We must get down to real negotiations because the house is beginning to burn”, he declared.

Addressing the financial working group on 26 January on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Costa Rica said the UN's current fiscal difficulties were caused mainly by the failure of some Member States to fulfil their Charter obligations and pay their contributions on time and in full. The question of possible revisions to the scale of assessments could not be linked to the payment of arrears, which should be settled soon so that the UN could return to financial solvency, he said. ■

Unpaid Assessed Contributions Regular budget & peace-keeping combined

Situation as at 31 December



New technology strengthens UN's administrative systems

by David Brown

The United Nations of the nineties is in the forefront of efforts by public and private organizations to reinvigorate their operations to meet the challenges of today's fast-paced global community.

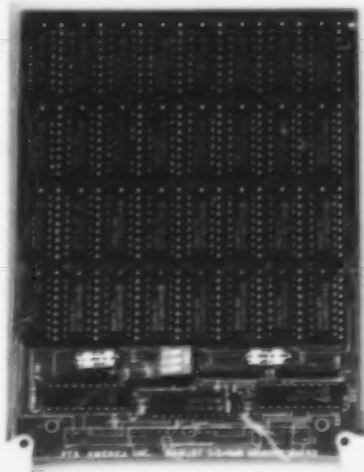
In order to respond effectively to the demands of peace-keeping operations around the world and expectations by Member States to do more with less, the UN has, among other efforts, been tapping the fountain of cutting-edge technology. High-tech information management and communications technologies are strengthening the administrative heart of the Organization, providing the stamina and conditioning that are essentials of modern management.

With around 15,000 employees and 16 multinational peace-keeping operations scattered globally, the administrative demands on the UN's technological infrastructure are enormous. To the typical difficulties associated with payroll, benefits, accounting and everyday management, add the complexities of administering for 185 nations and daily operations in more than 100 currencies.

"Even the best equipped organizations would have blown a fuse doing what we must do on a daily basis", said Gian Piero Roz of the Office of the Under Secretary-General for Administration and Management, who is working on a project to revamp the UN's administrative systems. "We're changing the way we do business here", said Roz, noting that until now, the UN, like many public and private establishments, had relied on mainframe technology from the 1960's to support what was essentially a paper-based system.

It was further encumbered by systems that did not talk to each other, tedious manual data entry, and long delays in receiving routine information. A variety of ad hoc technological solutions had been adopted to overcome

the historic limitations imposed on information management by time, distance and storage space.



Today, the degree of computerization reached at the UN has taken the Organization to a point of total reliance and dependence on computers and information technology for everyday activities. Personal computers (PCs) are used at all levels in every office. They are used for substantive as well as for administrative activities, in clerical tasks, as communication devices (E-mail) and as a vehicle to access centrally-maintained systems and databases (i.e. IMIS).

IMIS

A primary ingredient in the UN's new technological stock is the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), which is emerging as the brain and brawn of the Organization's own information superhighway. Designed and installed in conjunction with major private-sector consulting firms, IMIS takes a global approach to information management, enabling personnel and computers at UN Headquarters in New York and its major duty stations—Geneva, Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Nairobi, Santiago

and Vienna—as well as other UN offices around the globe, to share and manage information related to the Organization's human resources, finances, purchasing and contracting, and travel management.

"This computer infrastructure marks a new technological era for the UN", said Roz, who has shuttled between the Organization's array of administrative units, its patchwork of outdated computer systems and the high-tech industry to produce IMIS, now in the final stages of implementation.

From contracts for services, travel authorizations and housing allowances, to tracking employment applications, purchasing equipment and generating payroll in multiple currencies, the award-winning system is not only speeding procedures and enabling effective monitoring and analysis of the data it handles, but has identified certain existing business procedures as complex and sometimes contradictory, and has prompted a comprehensive review of what had for years been standard practice.

"Thirty years may not be a long time in the diplomatic world", said Roz, "but it is light years in technological terms. That is the magnitude of the advancements the UN is making." Indeed, IMIS has been recognized by various technology publications over the past several years, and received DATA-MATION'S Award for Client/Server Solutions. IMIS has also been featured in *Info World* (February 1994), *Computerworld* (October 1994) and in a cover story in *Client/Server* (January 1996) as a prominent undertaking in information management systems.

Focus will soon shift from the implementation of the new system to two elements considered critical to its long-term success: ongoing development and maintenance. As stated in the seventh—and most recent—progress report of the Secretary-General on IMIS,

in the past, inadequate resources were devoted to the development and maintenance of the UN's information systems. "It is important", noted the report, "that a careful maintenance plan be established so that the software and its various elements do not become obsolete, but can evolve along with the needs of the Organization."

"After all", said Roz, "that is what led to the need for IMIS in the first place. The coming challenge will be to keep pace with technology as it evolves in the industry. The return on this kind of investment is enormous in terms of efficiency and better decision-making. We owe it to ourselves and our Member States to stay in top shape."

Local area networks

While IMIS is probably one of the lesser-known acronyms in UN parlance, the Organization's extended use of modern technology is evident in the rapid increase in the number of personal computers it uses, which are inter-connected through networks. In New York alone, from just 200 connections in 1993 to an expected 5,000 in 1995, the UN's local area networks (LANs) are the webs that link individual personal computers at a given site to each other. Over a wide area network, or WAN, the local clusters of computer terminals at each UN mission, while independent, will eventually be connected to one another, creating an organization-wide link.

"The LAN effectively brings everyone into the same room", said Eduardo Blinder of the Advanced Technical Support Section in the Electronic Services Division. A common denominator among the various technologies employed by the UN, the networks will enable personnel to send and receive electronic mail and to access a variety of personnel, financial and other information from various internal and external sources. The centralized structure of the LAN also provides a good measure of "update friendliness". As new software technology becomes available, it can be loaded onto thousands of PCs from one location, saving time and money.

Field operation

The UN's peace-keeping activities, which increased markedly with the end of the cold war, served as a particularly urgent call to action. The logistics of mobilizing and supporting multiple peace-keeping contingents simultaneously proved extraordinarily taxing on the Organization's capabilities.

In response to the challenge, a task force was set up in the Field Administration and Logistics Division (FALD) to coordinate the use of modern communications and information technology. One means of coping with this rapid growth was the development and implementation of plans to enhance the VSAT satellite network and to upgrade all missions to the digital standard. This substantially increased the quality and serviceability of telephone, fax and data connections between the field missions, the UN Headquarters and other UN offices.

Information technology is vital to the success of UN field missions. The quantity of correspondence, budget, finance, payroll, reporting and general administrative functions to be performed in support of mission operations precludes handling by manual means. FALD introduced a Field Automation Programme, with the primary goal of assuring administrative and logistical support through information technology. Information and communication support is provided through a full range of highly mobile containerized services that can be globally deployed as and when necessary.

These services include automated procurement, inventory and asset management systems, an up-to-date accounting and reporting system, a computerized transport management system and a computerized personnel system, in addition to PC-based logistics support systems. The information structure is a seamless blend of communication networks, computers, software, applications and other capabilities that work together to meet the needs of field missions and their support staff.

The successful implementation of the Field Automation Programme in the field missions has resulted in im-

mediate and substantial benefits both locally and internationally. Missions are now provided with inter-mission support, enhanced data transfer capabilities between the Headquarters and the field, the ability to produce clear audit trails, as well as standardized procedures and management reports. Such improvements have contributed to effective management practices, as well as reduction of staff requirements in the field.

Optical disks

In addition to the analysis and movement of information, the UN is also employing the latest techniques to store what will eventually amount to millions of pages of official documents. The optical disk—literally, a 12-inch platter which is stored in a jukebox-like cabinet and selected like a record—will serve as the repository of UN documents for everyday reference, as well as an official archive. "The optical disk is a boon in terms of efficiency", said Wolfgang Fuerst, who, as Coordinator of the Technological Innovations Programme for the Office of Conference and Support Services, oversees the use of the digital technology, operational since 1992. "It is the file cabinet of a paper-less system", he said.

Characterizing the growing volumes of disks as likely to become the UN's future library, Fuerst said that as a resource that is instantaneously accessible worldwide, the collection of disks may ultimately eliminate the need for certain onsite assignments, such as filing and managing the steady stream of information duty stations received from Headquarters on a daily basis. And, because digital information can be copied onto smaller compact disks (CD-ROMs) and mailed anywhere in the world at little cost, the digital technology is expected to reduce expenses associated with shipping paper-laden pouches to regional locations, or transporting the large volumes of data over a telephone wire.

The UN's technological evolution is also expected to benefit other UN-affiliated organizations and the international community at large, including

non-governmental organizations, universities and other Governments. In addition to the storage and distribution of the latest information, the optical disk project is converting major documents and resolutions dating back to 1946 into digital form and archiving them on the disk. Are they can be easily accessed for a nominal fee or at no expense.

Satellite

In addition to cable-linked technologies, the UN is a veteran user of satellite technology, which for the last decade has enabled it to communicate quickly with missions and peace-keeping forces around the world at a moment's notice. It has also enabled the UN to more effectively monitor trade sanctions, and will continue to play a vital role in its long-range technological strategy.

(See 'The dish that saves lives', UN Chronicle, December 1994 issue.)

User-friendly technology

Converting data from analog to digital format may be logical and straightforward, but, as with the rest of the administrative world, where many are reluctant to embrace new technologies and cling to the familiar procedures of the past, introducing employees to their new high-tech tools is an added challenge. "Fortunately, as technology gets better, it gets friendlier, easier to use", said Roz, giving a bright prognosis for the acceptance by personnel of the new technology. "Like anything else, it will take some getting used to. I think once users realize the benefits and see the efficiency of the technology, we will all wonder how we ever did without it." Training for the new technology has included videos and in-

structor-led courses, as well as hands-on courses and on-line tutorials, by which the system answers questions about itself.

"In the end", states the Secretary-General's status report on the project, "IMIS will lead to the greatest changes in the management of the Organization since its inception." Indeed, just as the UN has found benefits in diplomatic cooperation, its technological evolution and systems cooperation and integration are proving to be a critical source of modernization and efficiency. From IMIS and telecommunications to personal computer networks and the optical disk system, and the extensive use of advanced technology at peace-keeping missions, the UN is developing its technological muscle to do more with less—an essential in today's world of modern management. ■

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Stronger measures to protect ozone layer

Some 110 Governments, meeting in Vienna from 28 November to 7 December, agreed to new commitments to strengthen the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The most significant part of the agreement was the decision by industrialized countries to phase out methyl bromide by the year 2010.

Those countries, which account for some 80 per cent of the worldwide use of methyl bromide, had earlier agreed only to a freeze by 1995, making methyl bromide the most powerful ozone-depleting substance not previously subject to a phase-out. Developing countries, which previously faced no controls at all, agreed to a freeze by 2002 at average 1995-1998 levels.

New and tighter controls will also be introduced on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which will be mostly phased out by industrialized countries by 2020 instead of 2030. Developing countries, which have not had any HCFC controls before, agreed to a freeze for the year 2016 (on the basis of consumption levels in 2015) and to a phaseout as of 2040. HCFCs are used as a replacement for CFCs, which, although much less dangerous, too deplete the ozone layer.

Methyl bromide was a difficult issue because its use as a fumigant for export commodities and soils for certain crops makes it economically important. Some 70,000 tons are produced every year. A number of countries argued that the remaining scientific, technical and economic uncertainties should be resolved, and substitutes

clearly identified before the chemical was controlled. Others argued that alternatives were available for almost all uses, as demonstrated by the Netherlands, which had almost completely phased out its consumption of methyl bromide.

An important contribution to the willingness of developing countries to ac-



Off-shore pollution menaces even the most pristine environment.

cept the new commitments was agreement that any new control measures for developing countries would require technology transfers and additional funding from industrialized countries. The multilateral fund that supports projects in developing countries has so far received \$438 million since its establishment in 1991. The exact size of contributions to replenish it after 1996 will be discussed at next year's meeting.

"Governments must now maintain the momentum by honouring their commitments to control ozone-depleting chemicals and contribute financing", Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told delegates on 7 December. "We cannot afford to rest on our laurels. The key is having the political will to prevent short-term economic and social interests from undermining the long-term need to protect the ozone layer."

Global programme to tackle marine degradation adopted

The international community took a major step towards enhancing the health and economic well-being of the more than 3.5 billion people who live at or near coastal areas by adopting on 3 November the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

Adopted by 110 Governments at the end of a two-week intergovernmental conference organized by UNEP and hosted by the United States Government in Washington D.C., the Programme aims to prevent further degradation of the global marine environment and will help States

take practical actions to maintain and improve the productive capacity of the marine environment, ensure the protection of human health and promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

Nearly 80 per cent of all marine pollution is caused by various human activities on land. Population densities, industrial growth, tourism development and the siting of transportation and trade centres have had adverse effects on a variety of coastal ecosystems—salt marshes, mangrove forests, coastal wetlands, estuaries and coral reefs.

The Programme identified the ecosystems under particular threat and recommended specific remedial action at all levels.

At the international level, action was called for in two priority areas—the development of a global, legally binding instrument on persistent organic

pollutants, and plans to deal with the inadequate treatment of waste water or sewage.

Global Biodiversity Assessment report released

The first *Global Biodiversity Assessment* report, released on 14 November by UNEP, has concluded that the Earth's biological resources are under serious threat. The damage being done today—largely as a result of human activities—would limit the range of options that people will have in the future. Little progress had also been made in establishing the scientific foundations to conserve and benefit from biological diversity and its components.

The 1,140-page report is the most comprehensive analysis of the science of biological diversity ever attempted. Funded by the Global Environment Facility and UNEP, the independent and peer-reviewed assessment is the work of over 1,500 scientists and experts from all parts of the world.

In contrast to the climate change and ozone layer treaties, the biodiversity treaty was not preceded by a comprehensive scientific assessment, partly because the field of biological diversity is very complex and because biodiversity researchers and observation systems are much more decentralized and location specific.

The Assessment focused on evaluating the scientific understanding of biodiversity's various components—ecosystems, species and genes—and on identifying gaps in the knowledge base that should be targeted for future research.

While great advances had been made in recent years, scientists still had only a very incomplete understanding of the Earth's biological diversity, the report stated. Gaps in data were enormous and estimates could sometimes differ by orders of magnitude.

The Assessment found that ecosystems of all kinds were under pressure worldwide. Coastal and lowland areas, wetlands, native grasslands and many types of forests and woodlands had been particularly affected or destroyed. In the early to mid-1980s, humid tropical forests had been losing nearly 25

million acres annually, or just under 1 per cent globally. Dry tropical forests might have lost even more area, and 10 per cent of the 232,000 square miles of coral reefs in the world had already been eroded beyond recovery.



UN stamps for endangered species (1996)

The report estimated that only 13 per cent of the 13-14 million species on Earth had been scientifically described. It also noted that some 26,000 plant species and 5,400 animal species that had been recorded as threatened with extinction were far from the real total. Flowering plants and vertebrate animals had recently become extinct at over 50 to 100 times the average expected natural rate.

The report concluded that biodiversity management must go far beyond simply establishing isolated nature reserves or setting up agricultural seed banks. Instead, it must be fully integrated into all aspects of landscape management, including agriculture, socio-economics and other relevant fields.

Many animal breeds at risk of extinction

A projected 1,200 to 1,500 of the world's 4,000 to 5,000 domestic animal genetic resources were at risk of loss, according to a study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). The study—the *World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity*—

found that many of the world's farm animal breeds were disappearing at an alarming rate and that globally the state of animal genetic resources was worsening.

Of the 3,882 breeds of 28 species in FAO's global databank, 873 breeds were at risk, the study found. The 638 most endangered breeds were in Europe, where 43 per cent of all breeds were threatened. In Asia, which contained at least 25 per cent of the world's animal genetic resources, 97 breeds were at high risk, according to the report.

Breeds are lost when there are no market incentives to use local breeds, according to Keith Hammond, an FAO expert on animal genetics. Sustainable, well-managed utilization of animals in their environment was likely to be the most cost-effective means of maintaining genetic resources for the future.

Grim environmental forecast for Asia-Pacific region

On 28 November, 40 Asia-Pacific States concluded their 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Bangkok, with the recognition that, despite modest gains in improving the environment, there were still "tremendous obstacles to overcome before the whole region is joined in the battle to change the grim environmental forecast for the near future".

The *1995 Report on the State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific* had warned that an ecological disaster would be brought about by an expected doubling of the region's population by the year 2040.

Under the terms of a Declaration adopted by the Ministers, States agreed to strengthen the institutional framework and provide adequate finances for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development for 1996-2001. They also urged States involved in nuclear testing to note their strong concern over the impact of nuclear testing on the environment, cease such activity and conclude a comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1996. ■

Assembly calls for universal participation in Law of the Sea Convention

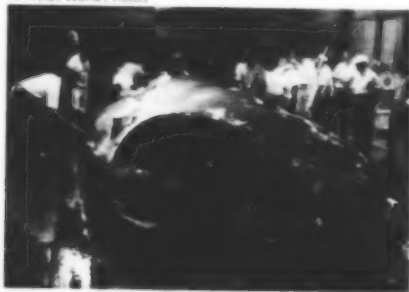
The General Assembly on 5 December called upon all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation. In resolution 50/23, adopted by a vote of 132 to 1 (Turkey), with 3 abstentions, the Assembly emphasized the importance of making adequate

ments of the Convention and the universal support it had now secured. The Convention had set out new rules for the use of the oceans and the management of its resources and established a balance between competing interests, he added.

Many other speakers also described the Convention as one of the Organization's greatest achievements; however,

said it was the international community's particular responsibility to guarantee that the legal regime that governed the law of the sea was not wrecked by unilateral and arbitrary action by any State. He was also concerned by reports of rusting nuclear warships, with nuclear reactors abandoned carelessly at their bases, and of nuclear submarines lost or scuttled at sea.

AP/Wide World Photos



FAO Photo/R. Nattoli

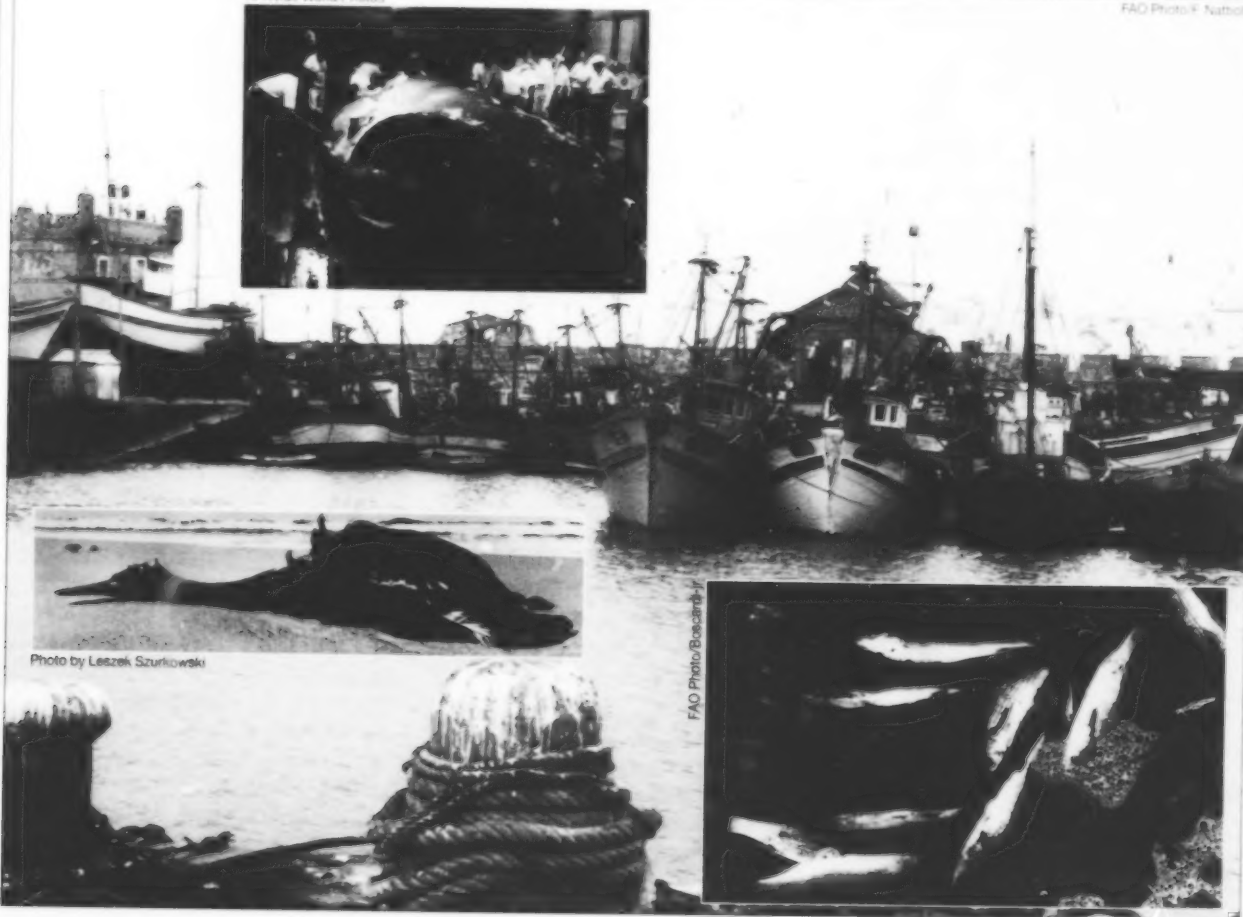


Photo by Leszek Szurkowski

FAO Photo/Bacardi Jr

provisions for the efficient functioning of the institutions established by the Convention.

In a statement to the Assembly, Satya N. Nandan of Fiji, President of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea, underlined the outstanding achieve-

ments of the Convention and the universal support it had now secured. The Convention had set out new rules for the use of the oceans and the management of its resources and established a balance between competing interests, he added.

Many other speakers also described the Convention as one of the Organization's greatest achievements; however,

Jean-Michel Gausson of France denied that his country's nuclear tests harmed the environment. The "harmlessness" of those tests had been confirmed by a group of Australian scientists, and the European Commission had recently concluded that they posed no threat to the population, he said.

Secretary-General's report

A 1 November report of the Secretary-General (A/50/713) provides a comprehensive overview of all developments in ocean affairs, with emphasis on those relating to the implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention and the conservation and management of living marine resources. It stated that since the Convention's entry into force in November 1994, 13 more States had deposited their instruments of ratification, accession or succession, bringing the total number of States parties to 81.

Regarding the activities of the International Seabed Authority, the report recalled that the Authority's Assembly had been charged with electing 36 members to the Council. Although substantial progress had been made within each group and among the various groups, and in spite of efforts by the Assembly President and others, it had not been possible to establish the Council by the end of the Assembly's first session. The Secretary-General of the Authority is to be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Council.

Crimes at sea

The report discusses efforts to strengthen national capabilities and international cooperation to deal with the growing incidence of crimes at sea—drug trafficking, smuggling of aliens, piracy and armed robbery. Inadequate flag State jurisdiction, weak maritime law enforcement capabilities, and other limitations on the interception capabilities of coastal States have all contributed to greater demands to strengthen further the international legal framework in these areas and to conclude more cooperative arrangements among States.

Environmental protection and conservation

Fisheries: According to statistics and projections of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), world fish production increased again in 1995 due to aquaculture. If the ever increasing demand was to be met, aquacultural production would have to

double in the next 15 years and greater use would have to be made of bycatches. FAO estimates that more than 69 per cent of the marine fisheries are threatened. A Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, to support also the implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention, was completed in 1995, as was the new Agreement on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

Marine environment: The Law of the Sea Convention is as much a strategic policy document as it is a treaty instrument, the Secretary-General's report stated. It encourages developments which are seen in the adoption of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the 1995 Fisheries Agreement. Sound management, integrating coastal and marine resources, remained crucial. Further strengthening of national and international action was expected from the November 1995 Washington D.C. conference on protecting the marine environment from land-based activities, which targeted pollution from sewage, industrial waste-waters and organic pollutants. The report also drew particular attention to the need to strengthen international law and policy on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The Secretary-General reported that the efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to improve safety and reduce pollution had appeared to be paying off. The rate of serious casualties was falling and the amount of oil and other pollutants entering the sea from ships had been decreasing dramatically. "But recently there has been a disturbing rise in accidents", the report stated. The IMO was greatly concerned that measures to date might not be enough to cope with problems that might become worse in the next few years. Major changes in approach might be needed, including changes in the overall approach to maritime safety.

1998—Year of the Ocean: The report also noted that the General Assembly had proclaimed 1998 to be the International Year of the Ocean. The Government of Portugal would

devote Expo '98 in Lisbon entirely to ocean issues. The UN and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) would together lead a joint UN system participation in this world exposition.

Underwater cultural heritage

Technological advances now permit the recovery of archaeological and historical objects from almost any ocean depth. The Convention deals with such objects only in general terms, and the Secretary-General's report points to the possible need for a new legal instrument to cover both removal and on-site protection. A 1995 study on the matter, prepared by UNESCO, will be examined by a governmental expert group in 1996.

Meeting of States parties

At a meeting held at Headquarters from 27 November to 1 December, the States parties to the Law of the Sea Convention postponed the election of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf until March 1997. The Convention stipulates that States parties wishing to establish limits to their continental shelf beyond 200 miles should provide the Commission with particulars of those limits, together with supporting scientific and technical data, within ten years of the Convention's entry into force for that State party.

The Commission, which is to consist of 21 experts in the fields of geology, geophysics or hydrography to serve in their personal capacities, would then compile the information and provide technical assistance to coastal States.

The meeting also revised the text of its draft protocol on the privileges and immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, to be set up in Hamburg, Germany. Upon completion, the text would be open for signature and ratification by all States.

Election of the 21 judges of the Tribunal, to be chosen from senior lawyers, diplomats and professors with particular expertise in the law of the sea, would take place on 1 August 1996. ■

Global treaty on fisheries signed by 31 countries

The first global treaty to regulate high seas fishing was opened for signature at a special ceremony held at Headquarters on 4 December 1995, concluding the work of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The treaty, officially known as the "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks", had been adopted by the Conference on 4 August after nearly three years of negotiations.

The Agreement, signed by 25 States on the date it was opened for signature, attempts to implement effectively the obligation already embodied in the Convention on the Law of the Sea for States to conserve and sustainably manage high seas fisheries. To that end, parties to the Agreement are under an obligation to adopt measures to safeguard the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and to ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.

Coastal States and States fishing on the high seas are obligated to pursue cooperation either directly or through regional organizations to ensure the effective conservation and management of fish stocks. Further, the Agreement imposes obligations on States whose flag fishing vessels fly, to ensure that measures agreed to are enforced. It also obliges port States where such vessels call to promote the effectiveness of such measures.

The treaty includes ground-breaking provisions to ensure compatibility between conservation and management measures adopted in zones under national jurisdiction and those adopted in adjacent high seas fishing areas. It also introduces the "precautionary approach" to fisheries management both within and outside the areas

of national jurisdiction, by which States are obligated to act cautiously when there is doubt about the viability of stocks.

As of 31 January 1996, the Agreement had been signed by 31 States. It will remain open for signature until 3 December 1996, and will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification or accession.



Conference Chairman Satya N. Nandan

The Fish Stocks Conference was convened by the General Assembly in accordance with the recommendation of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, which had called for an intergovernmental meeting to identify and assess existing problems relating to the conservation and management of high seas fisheries.

The Agreement, Conference Chairman Satya N. Nandan of Fiji told delegates at the 4 December ceremony, contained principles that were on the cutting edge of fisheries management and was already having an impact on regional fisheries organizations. In time, he said, the Agreement would help avert the major fisheries crisis towards which the world was headed.

UN Legal Counsel Hans Corell, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said the Agreement demonstrated a commitment to the progressive development and codification of

international law and to the peaceful development of all nations. He urged all States to sign and ratify it in the shortest possible time.

The General Assembly on 5 December, by resolution 50/24, welcomed the opening for signature of the Agreement and emphasized the importance of its early entry into force and effective implementation. It further called on all States that had not signed, ratified or acceded to the Agreement to do so and consider applying it provisionally.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments was effectively coordinated and duplication of activities minimized.

By resolution 50/25 dealing with large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and fisheries by-catch and discards, the Assembly reaffirmed the need for full implementation of a global moratorium on large-scale drift-net fishing on the high seas.

The resolution also called on States to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flags fished in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the coastal State or States concerned.

In addition to the Secretary-General's report on the law of the sea (A/50/713), which contains a section on fisheries questions in general, the Assembly also considered four reports of the Secretary-General dealing with: unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/50/549); the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (A/50/550); fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources (A/50/552); and large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/50/553). ■

Chernobyl: Ten years after ...

International Commemoration Day declared for 26 April

The General Assembly on 20 December, in declaring 26 April 1996 the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, invited Member States to conduct activities to observe that tragic event and "enhance public awareness of the consequences of such disasters for human health and the environment throughout the world".

By adopting resolution 50/134 without a vote, the Assembly also invited Member States, especially the donors, the relevant multilateral financial institutions and other concerned parties of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to "provide support to the ongoing efforts" of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to cope with the consequences of the disaster.

The Secretary-General was asked to continue to maintain close cooperation, particularly through the UN Coordinator for International Cooperation on Chernobyl, with UN agencies and other relevant organizations, "with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation and coordination of multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas", while implementing programmes and specific projects.

The establishment in Ukraine of an International Scientific and Technological Centre for Nuclear and Radiological Accidents was noted as an "important step towards enhancing the capabilities of the international community to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of such accidents".

Anniversary activities

A number of planned activities and projects—special events, press confer-

ences, photo and art exhibits, radio and television programmes, and publications—were to be carried out by the UN Department of Public Information and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in commemoration of the Chernobyl disaster.



A young demonstrator in the centre of Kiev.

Those included a concert by the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra at the General Assembly Hall on 26 April, demonstration of documentary films provided by the countries concerned, and production of various special information products.

'Worst catastrophe'

The accident that had occurred on the night of 25 and 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine remained the "worst technolog-

ical environmental catastrophe", Peter Hansen, the then UN Coordinator for Chernobyl and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, told the press on 28 November at Headquarters.

"It was a humanitarian catastrophe far different from others", he stated

in announcing a 29 November annual ministerial-level meeting of the Quadripartite Committee for Coordination on Chernobyl, comprised of representatives of the three most affected countries—Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine—as well as UN agencies and the donor community.

At least 9 million people had been directly or indirectly affected, with some 375,000 displaced and 800,000 "liquidators"—individuals who had dealt with the disaster's immediate aftermath—"very severely affected", Mr. Hansen said.

Morbidity rates were 30 per cent higher in Ukraine for those who lived in the contaminated region, and more than 50 per cent for those in the immediate area of the reactor, he went on. In Belarus, thyroid cancer had increased some 285-fold, affecting mostly children.

The "worst part of the problem was that not enough was known", and the full effect of the consequences would "likely

be known 20 years from now", Mr. Hansen noted. There was a "gradual deterioration in the health conditions of the people"; in Belarus, for example, some 62 per cent were suffering from anxiety syndrome and 75 per cent from depression.

A number of UN agencies were carrying out various projects to address the needs of the people, but many of them were "being discontinued for lack of funds", Mr. Hansen stated.

Since only two or three per cent of

the nuclear material had escaped during the explosion, the "major problem is how to prevent the rest from seeping through the cracked concrete walls", he stressed, adding that none of the affected countries had the financial capacity to do that.

Assistance urged

Further international assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was urged by officials from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 30 November, as they held a press conference on the results of the Quadripartite Committee meeting at Headquarters.

Ivan Kenik, Minister for Emergencies and Population Protection from the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences of Belarus, hoped that 1996 would become, "with the help of the media", a year of international solidarity with the victims of Chernobyl. His country, with a population of 10 million, allocated "nearly a quarter of its national income to resolve post-Chernobyl problems". According to international assessments, 70 per cent of the Chernobyl fallout had occurred in Belarus.

Ukraine was spending about one tenth of its budget on clean-up and recovery work, as well as other related projects, said Borys Hudyma, that country's Deputy Perma-

nent Representative to the UN. About 8 per cent of that came from international assistance.

Victor Vladimirov, Deputy Minister

for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Calamities of the Russian Federation, stressed that the whole international community had a "stake in seeing positive results" from the work going on in the three countries.

'Still a major humanitarian tragedy'

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 8 September stated that the name "Chernobyl" had become "synonymous throughout the world with our fear of technological catastrophe: it symbolizes a penance for our unchecked desire for progress".

Although an area the size of England, Wales and Northern Ireland combined—over 160,000 square kilometres—had been estimated to be contaminated by the disaster, and the "humanitarian trauma itself ... is as frighteningly unnatural as it is difficult to quantify", the international community's response had been "inconsistent throughout", he reported (A/50/418).

A concerted effort was therefore needed to alert, particularly the donors, to the fact that Chernobyl was "still a major humanitarian tragedy", and the magnitude of its effects would "continue to grow over the next 10 years", the Secretary-General stressed. The 26 April tenth anniversary of the disaster offered an "excellent opportunity to galvanize widespread media interest in the problem", he said. ■



A "penance for our unchecked desire for progress"

Nigeria faces criticism after execution of writer

Follow-up to Vienna Conference a priority

The arbitrary execution in Nigeria on 10 November of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others was condemned by the fiftieth General Assembly, which in other action urged the Government of Myanmar to engage in a dialogue with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders as the best means of promoting national reconciliation and restoring democracy. The Assembly also expressed the hope that the recent violence in Haiti would not impede the consolidation of democracy, as well as outrage at human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia.

With a broad human rights mandate, the Assembly also acted on the rights of children, indigenous peoples, racism and discrimination, self-determination, follow-up to the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, and situations in individual countries. In all, it adopted 46 resolutions on human rights matters, based on the recommendations of its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

UN joins international protest

A concerned General Assembly, in a resolution (50/199) adopted by a vote of 101 to 14, with 47 abstentions, "condemned the arbitrary execution, after a flawed judicial process, of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight co-defendants" in Nigeria. Joining an international chorus of protest, it also expressed "deep

concern about other violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms" in the country, and called on the Government to restore habeas corpus, release all political prisoners, guarantee freedom of the press and ensure the rights of all individuals. Immediate, concrete steps to restore democratic rule should be taken, it stated, in welcoming measures taken by the Commonwealth and other States to underline to Nigeria the importance of a return to democratic rule and human rights observance. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in cooperation with the Commonwealth, will undertake discussions with Nigeria and report back to the Assembly.

In Third Committee debate, States opposing the draft—most of them African—and some of those abstaining considered it had crossed the line between concern for human rights and interference in a State's internal affairs. Nigeria asserted that the nine had been executed only after due process had been observed. On 10 November, Mr. Boutros-Ghali, saying he was "shocked and appalled to learn of the executions by hanging of the nine Nigerian minority-rights activists, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa", urged the Government "to fully respect the rights of minorities". The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, made an urgent appeal on 9 November to the Head of State of Nigeria asking for clemency after the death sentences were imposed. Mr. Saro-Wiwa was a prominent political leader of the minority Ogoni people.

In "welcoming the release without conditions" on 10 July 1995 of Aung San Suu Kyi and a number of other opposition leaders in Myanmar, the Assembly, in adopting without a vote resolution 50/194, urged the Government to immediately release all political leaders and prisoners, engage in a dialogue with those leaders, and take steps towards restoring democracy in accordance with the 1990 democratic elections.



Ken Saro-Wiwa



Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi

UN Photo 188834/E. Schneider



José Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights

The rape and abuse of women and children in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia constituted "a war crime", according to the Assembly, which condemned (50/192) the "abhorrent practice", expressing outrage that it had been used as a weapon of war and an instrument of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace, initialled at Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November, the Assembly stressed (50/193) its dismay at the "huge number" of missing persons still unaccounted for. The leadership in territories under the control of Serbs in Bosnia and formerly Serb-held areas of Croatia, the commanders of Serb paramilitary forces and political and military leaders in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) bore primary responsibility for most of the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the Assembly declared.

It also adopted, without votes, resolutions on Afghanistan, Haiti and Rwanda. Recorded votes were taken on the human rights situations in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Kosovo, Cuba, Iraq, Iran and Sudan.

Self-determination, democratization, terrorism

Pointing to the menace that mercenaries posed to peace in developing countries, particularly in Africa and in small States, where democratically-elected Governments had only recently been overthrown or threatened by their activities, the Assembly urged (50/138) national legislation to ensure that territories and nationals were not used for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow another Government.

"Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations", the Assembly called on (50/139) States responsible to stop such intervention or occupation. Millions of refugees and displaced persons had been uprooted as a result of such acts, it added.

Acting on respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes, the Assembly strongly appealed (50/172) to all States to refrain from financing or providing any form of overt or covert support for political parties or groups and from taking actions to undermine the electoral process in any country.

It commended (50/185) the steps taken by the UN to ensure the continuation and consolidation of the democratization process in certain Member States, and recommended the provision of post-election assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions.

An increasing number of innocent persons, including women, children and the elderly, were being "killed,

fund for victims of terrorism, as well as to explore ways to rehabilitate them.

UN Photo/J. P. Laffont



Toy guns—but all too soon real conflict.

massacred and maimed by terrorists in indiscriminate and random acts of violence and terror, which cannot be justified under any circumstances", the Assembly said, in asking (50/186) the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to establish a UN voluntary

Children

In only the second session where child rights were considered as a separate issue, the fiftieth General Assembly, in a six-part resolution (50/153), requested "appropriate measures" by Member States and UN agencies to facilitate humanitarian assistance and relief to children in situations of armed conflict. Work on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflicts should also proceed. Measures to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery, and to prevent the killing of street children and to combat torture and violence against them were urged.

Noting that the violation of the rights of the girl child had been identified as a critical concern in the Beijing Platform for Action of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the Assembly called (50/154) on the international community to take into account the rights and needs of the girl child and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against her.

Racism, indigenous peoples

Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia continued to persist and "grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity", stressed the Assembly (50/135), which asked (50/136) the international community to give "highest priority" to programmes for combating racism and racial discrimination and intensify their efforts, during the Third Decade

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to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), to provide assistance to victims.

It also decided (50/156) that the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations should be "used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations" of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights, as well as in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. A Programme of activities was approved (50/157) for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004), affirming as its major objective the adoption of a declaration on their rights.

Follow-up to Vienna, other action

In an annual review of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Assembly called on (50/201) States to take further action to achieve full realization of human rights in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights. After considering the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/50/36), the Assembly said the international community should "devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world". It welcomed the work of the High Commissioner, and requested him and other organs and bodies of the UN system that consider human rights issues to take further action, with a view to the full implementation of all

the recommendations of the Conference.

In his report, Mr. Ayala Lasso said prevention was central to combating human rights violations, especially as the world saw "years of development efforts destroyed overnight by outbreaks of serious violations and the generation of refugees, internally displaced persons and mass exoduses". Success in the future, he stressed, would depend on international support and cooperation, as well as adequate human and financial resources.

religious and Linguistic Minorities (50/180);

- ◆ asked the Secretary-General "to consider favourably" requests for assistance in the field of administration of justice, stating this was "indispensable to democratization processes and sustainable development" (50/181);

- ◆ adopted the amendment of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, enlarging the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 experts (50/155). (To enter

UNA Photo 186718/J. Isaac



Residents in the partially destroyed Muslim enclave of Stari Vitez (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In other action, the Assembly:

- ◆ expressed the hope that the Palestinian people could "soon be exercising their right to self-determination in the current peace process" (50/140);

- ◆ urged States, in light of "the growing frequency and severity" of disputes and conflicts concerning minorities, to take "all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the principles" contained in the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Reli-

into force, the amendment must also be approved by two thirds of the States parties.);

- ◆ asked that high priority be accorded to Member States' requests for assistance in establishing and strengthening national human rights institutions as part of the programme of human rights advisory services and technical assistance (50/176); and

- ◆ urged States to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious extremism and intolerance of religion or belief (50/183). ■

Effective implementation of 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' called for

The General Assembly on 8 December, in resolution 50/42, called for the effective implementation of the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference was one of the largest world gatherings ever held under UN auspices; it took place in the Chinese capital from 4 to 15 September.

On 22 December, the Assembly endorsed the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action—a comprehensive, ground-breaking plan for the international community to promote the status of women. In resolution 50/203, it called upon States, the UN system and "all other actors" to promote "an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies", in order to ensure the Platform's effective implementation. The Assembly stressed that Governments had the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform and that commitment at the highest level was essential for its implementation.

Among its 38 provisions, the Beijing Declaration recognizes that the status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade, but that progress has been uneven, inequalities between women and men have persisted and major obstacles remain, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people.

The Platform for Action establishes a basic group of priority actions to be carried out over the next five years. It deals in depth with 12 critical areas of concern, considered as the main obsta-

cles to women's advancement: poverty; education; health; violence against women; armed conflict; economic structures; power sharing and decision-making; mechanisms to promote the advancement of women; human

programmes and funds to ensure a coordinated system-wide response, integrating the follow-up of the Conference with that of other global conferences.

On 28 December, the Secretary-General designated his Senior Adviser, Assistant Secretary-General Rosario Green, as his "adviser on gender issues". Ms. Green would assist in ensuring that the gender perspective was effectively integrated into policies and programmes in all areas of the work of the UN system and was fully taken into account in furthering the Organization's linkages with civil society.

On the subject of traffic in women and girls, the Assembly appealed (*resolution 50/167*) to Governments to address the root factors that encouraged trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women. Governments were invited to combat such trafficking through nationally and internationally coordinated measures, and to consider the development of standard minimum rules for the humanitarian treatment of trafficked persons. Concerned Governments were urged to support comprehensive, practical approaches by the interna-

tional community to assist women and children victims of transnational trafficking to return home and be reintegrated into their home societies.

Women migrant workers

States Members were called upon (*50/168*) to adopt measures for the effective implementation of the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including apply-



International participation in Beijing.

rights; the media; the environment; and the girl child.

In his 10 November report (*A/50/744*) on the follow-up to the Beijing Conference, the Secretary-General indicated that he would ensure that the gender perspective was integrated into all aspects of the work of the Organization, and that he would work with his colleagues, the executive heads of the UN specialized agencies and UN pro-

UN Photo

WOMEN

UN Photo



Mrs. Hillary Clinton addresses the Beijing Conference.

ing them to women migrant workers, as well as all relevant measures emanating from recent world conferences. They were also encouraged to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the 1926 Slavery Convention.

Rural women

Member States were also invited (50/165) to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national development strategies, paying special attention to both their practical and strategic needs. In formulating relevant strategies and actions, the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was invited to give due consideration to the gender aspects of rural-urban migration and its impact on the situation of rural women.

Other UN action

As one of the operational bodies of the UN, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was asked (50/166) to take into account the need

to strengthen its activities to eliminate violence against women as part of system-wide efforts of the UN towards that goal. The UN Development Programme's Administrator was asked to consider the possibility of establishing a trust fund, within UNIFEM's existing mandate, structure and management, in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women.

The Assembly regretted (50/162) that, owing to the absence of sufficient information on the legal, technical and administrative implications of the proposed merger of the International Research and Train-

ment of women must be considered part of the general restructuring exercise of the UN.

In resolution 50/163, the Assembly reiterated the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and training activities, which were crucial for the situation of women. Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were invited to contribute to the UN Trust Fund for INSTRAW.

Resolution 50/164 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat called upon the Secretary-General to fulfil his target of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000. He was urged to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, particularly those that were unrepresented or underrepresented, and from other countries that had a low representation of women.

By resolution 50/202, the Assembly noted with approval the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It

UN Photo 191211/M. Grant



Special Representative Ismat Kittani (second from right) addresses the opening session of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Seated next to him (at far left) is Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General of the Conference.

ing Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and UNIFEM, it was unable to decide on the merger. The Assembly recommended that any proposal dealing with the institutional structure and mandates of the different UN bodies dealing with the advance-

urged States parties to take measures so that acceptance by a two-thirds majority of States parties could be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment, which was adopted on 22 May 1995, to enter into force. ■

Growing emphasis being placed on provision of humanitarian assistance

The international community was placing growing emphasis on the provision of humanitarian assistance, protection and creation of conditions which could contribute to the early solutions of the refugee problems in the countries of origin, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata told the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) on 20 November.

Although the core of her Office's mandate was still to provide protection to millions of refugees, she said the international community no longer wanted her Office "to wait for people to cross borders before it offered to protect and assist them".

According to Mrs. Ogata, some 9 million refugees and displaced persons had returned to their places of origin during the last five years, but increasing numbers were, and would be, repatriating to situations where peace and stability had yet to be established fully. Nevertheless, return was usually preferable to a prolonged stay in exile under intolerable and dangerous conditions. Operating in the midst of conflict was very difficult, she stated. In the former Yugoslavia, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been powerless to stop some of the worst human rights atrocities in UN history.

Prevention was difficult because it was a political function, Mrs. Ogata observed. Prevention touched upon issues of sovereignty, whether in the context of early warning, preventive diplomacy, conflict negotiation and resolution. She looked to the Security Council and other political bodies to act on early warning signals and endeavour to prevent or resolve emerging conflicts.

Mrs. Ogata stated that a return to their countries of origin was always the best solution to the problem of refugees, but in the absence of that possibility, the importance of third-country resettlement could not be

overlooked. She expressed concern at the growing reluctance of States to grant asylum, even on a temporary basis. Many countries were openly admitting their weariness in accepting large numbers of refugees seeking

UNHCR Photo/E. Brissaud



Mrs. Sadako Ogata,
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

asylum, and some were closing their borders, while others were even introducing laws which denied admission to their territories. "The causes of conflicts must be addressed and solutions to them resolutely sought if humanitarian activities were not to be left to operate in isolation and continue indefinitely", she warned.

A massive new exodus of over 2 million refugees from Rwanda had cast a deep shadow over 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, according to a 14 September report of the UNHCR (A/50/12). A number of other regions, including the former Yugoslavia, the Transcaucasus, the Horn of Africa and parts of western Africa, continued to suffer from massive population displacements, while a major new crisis had erupted in the northern Caucasus. Those tragic events were offset by new or continued repatriation movements as possibilities for solutions, albeit

sometimes fragile, presented themselves in various parts of the world.

Worldwide, the refugee population had decreased to under 15 million by the end of 1994. However, that was offset by an increase in the total number of persons considered to be of UNHCR concern, which had risen to some 28 million, including over 5 million internally displaced persons, 3.4 million others of humanitarian concern, predominantly populations affected by conflict, and, more positively, some 4 million returnees requiring assistance to re-establish sustainable reintegration in their countries of origin. Those figures were reflected in a strengthened focus by the UNHCR on work in countries of origin.

In providing protection and assistance during 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, UNHCR continued to implement its strategy of preparedness, prevention and solutions. It had aimed to: assure a level of preparedness so as to respond rapidly to emergencies; provide assistance and protection in such a way as to avert, where possible, the occurrence of new refugee flows; and promote concerted efforts to achieve durable solutions to refugee problems, notably through voluntary repatriation.

More than \$111 million was pledged for the 1996 UNHCR programmes on 17 November at the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee Meeting for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Agency. Mrs. Ogata told the meeting that the total needs for 1996 would exceed \$1.1 billion, and priority would be given to funding long-term solutions for refugees and displaced persons. UNHCR had so far received just over \$800 million in new contributions in 1995.

Unaccompanied refugee minors

A 16 October report of the Secretary-General (A/50/555) on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors stated that, despite tragedies which continued

REFUGEES

to affect children as a result of conflict and persecution, progress had been made in the quality and timeliness of the international community's response to the problems facing unaccompanied minors. UNHCR was collaborating closely with Governments, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to enhance the protection of and assistance to unaccompanied children in refugee situations.

A closer and developing collaboration between UNHCR and UNICEF would aim at further improving emergency response, and at the same time ensuring compatibility with long-term solutions for the child, most often to be found in the country of origin. It was also expected that the systematic approach to the needs of unaccompanied minors by specialized NGOs would further contribute to an improved response to their needs.

Assembly action

In adopting four resolutions on refugees, the Assembly on 21 December, among other things:

- ◆ asked the High Commissioner to review her general programmes in Africa to take account of that region's increasing requirements, with a view to continuing her efforts and expanding her activities, in close collaboration with regional and governmental organizations and NGOs in Africa, in order to consolidate aid and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons (50/149);

- ◆ called on all concerned to exert maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors, and condemned all acts of exploitation of such minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict

and their recruitment in military forces (50/150);

- ◆ requested the High Commissioner to convene a regional conference in 1996 to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States (50/151); and

- ◆ called upon all States to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the protection of refugees, to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulment, as well as the humane treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees, in accordance with internationally-recognized human rights and humanitarian norms (50/152).

UNRWA

UNRWA forty-five years later

By Ilter Turkmen

Former Commissioner-General of the

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Created on 8 December 1949 by UN General Assembly resolution 302 (IV), UNRWA is a temporary organization which has existed for 45 years.

The paradox between its temporary nature and the duration of its mandate illustrates the extraordinarily complex and unique character of the Palestinian refugee problem.

The case of the Palestinian refugees is unique at least in modern times and as far as duration is concerned. With time, their initial flight has become a



Mr. Turkmen

de facto exile, and the Palestinians' exile or return has depended on the exile or return of the Jews to what has become the State of Israel. It was this that forged the framework of UNRWA's humanitarian mandate, imposing its deployment, development and adaptation according to the needs of the Palestinian populations concerned. And it was this exclusive attitude on both sides which was ended by the Oslo Agreements.

The mandate

General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) established UNRWA, recognizing "that continued assistance for the relief of the Palestine refugees is necessary to prevent conditions of starvation and distress among them and to further conditions of peace and stability ...".

In addition, UNRWA was charged with carrying out in collaboration with local governments the direct relief and works programmes, as well as with consulting with "the interested Near Eastern Governments concerning measures to be taken by them preparatory to the time when international assistance for relief and works projects is no longer available".

UNRWA is therefore a subsidiary organ of the United Nations and it is the General Assembly which, every three years, has renewed its mandate and modified it on several occasions since 1950. On an annual basis, it reviews the resolutions related to the Agency and its operations.

Over the years, this mandate appears to have evolved flexibly according to developments in the region, accommodating itself to the needs generated by each situation. It also appears that the international community did not hesitate to entrust UNRWA with broader responsibilities, whether regarding its programmes, the range

Towards completion of the mandate

of its operations or the categories of its beneficiaries. The Agency's position has always been that its mandate is flexible, thus it is readily adaptable to meet emergencies as they arise.

It is often mentioned that the Agency is responsible for refugee camps in the Middle East. This is incorrect and tends to downplay UNRWA's role. In fact, the Agency's mandate pertains to Palestinian refugees wherever they are, in camps or elsewhere. Above all, the Agency looks after human beings.

It became increasingly clear from the mid-fifties that the general development of the Middle East situation augured badly for an imminent settlement of the refugee question; moreover, a possible return of the refugees was becoming problematical with the growth and consolidation of the State of Israel and as the permanent resettlement of those refugees in their host countries was refused. UNRWA therefore chose the only option left open: concentrating on the education and training of refugees. By emphasizing individual training, the Agency could give the means of securing a future for those men and women in the rest of the Arab world, where human resources were needed for development.

The conjunction in time and space of the developmental needs of the Arabian Peninsula States, stimulated by oil prosperity, and UNRWA's special efforts for education and training of refugees was to bring advantages to the whole region which are unanimously recognized today.

With this human dimension decided upon very early on and with education, health and social services provided to the most destitute, UNRWA has had to adapt to the trials and tribulations which have marked the region for more than half a century. In the aftermath of the June 1967 war, UNRWA was asked by the international community to help displaced persons in need of assistance. The Agency thus broadened its mandate to cover a category of Palestinians who were not 1948 refugees. After 1967, when former mandatory Palestine had passed in its entirety under the control of

Israel, UNRWA emerged increasingly as the tangible expression of the international community, concern for the Palestinian population as a whole, not just for the 1948 refugees. This concern to entrust the Agency with the humanitarian problems of the entire Palestinian population became clear at

the beginning of the *Intifada* in the Occupied Territories in December 1987, with the creation of a new UNRWA programme. In fact, following a report submitted by the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council, in accordance with Council resolution 605 of 22 December 1987, UNRWA established a Refugee Affairs Officer Programme charged with the relief, on the humanitarian level, of the victims of violence resulting from the uprising of the occupied populations of the West Bank and Gaza. The Agency was called upon as well to work indiscriminately to address the needs of refugees and non-refugees alike.

Finally, immediately after the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the international community once again entrusted UNRWA with the task of distributing emergency food aid to the Palestinian populations of the Occupied Territories, who were severely distressed by more than six weeks of almost general curfew, without distinction between refugees and non-refugees. This operation—whereby more than 80,000 tonnes of food was distributed to the whole of the needy population of the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem—spotlighted UNRWA as the perfect instrument for channelling aid from the international community directly to the Palestinians, refugees and non-refugees.

Today

The peace process—from the Madrid Conference, followed by the Oslo Agreements and all the bilateral and multilateral negotiations—has, as



UNRWA at work on infrastructure.

expected, deeply modified the terrain of UNRWA operations and the references on which its mandate hinges. The key element of this change is the mutual recognition Israelis and Palestinians have granted each other. This is a truly Copernican revolution after over 40 years of exclusive affirmations and claims, but there is still some progress to make in peoples' minds in order to produce the fruits of peace.

It is also a revolution for UNRWA which has had to follow the narrow option of the human dimension from the beginning, navigating between the exclusive attitudes of all parties concerned. Since 1967, the Agency has seen its mandate stretched nearly to breaking-point by the international community, because almost all Palestinians had become "refugees" as it were, in their own land, and thus the distinction between refugees and non-refugees had gradually lost its practical if not juridical logic.

But, from now on, UNRWA can see the Palestinian population, for whose social and humanitarian well-being it has been responsible, taking its destiny into its own hands. As a result of these radical changes, UNRWA decided, in the weeks following the signature of the Declaration of Principles, to launch a new programme primarily intended for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Peace Implementation Programme was immediately a great success with the major donors and, within a few months, the Agency received nearly \$90 million, followed by \$10 million for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The

projects included in this Programme certainly come within the scope of the Agency's traditional operations, but their scale and the importance given to educational, medical and social infrastructures indicate a more definite tendency towards development, at least in the West Bank and Gaza.

At the beginning of my mandate in 1991, I set up an Income Generation

with the Palestinian community for over half a century. With this intimacy with Palestinian identity, built up over the years as the operational infrastructure was set up, and the professional relations organized and codified through the multiple services provided by the Agency—with over 20,000 employees today, 99 per cent of them Palestinians—UNRWA has acquired a

UNRWA Photo/M. Nasr



UNRWA runs 641 schools for more than 400,000 Palestine refugee children.

Programme in the form of repayable loans granted for small enterprises, in regions where the need was the most urgent. Priority was given to Gaza and the West Bank, both seriously affected by the consequences of the Persian Gulf War. This programme, which was partly aimed at compensating for the almost total lack of a structured banking network, has been remarkably successful. The same is true of the social development sector—particularly for women—and health, where activities are more closely adapted to social and community needs in each of UNRWA's five fields of operation in the Near East.

Because the dynamic force now set in motion will inevitably lead somewhere, with no possible return to the *status quo ante*, the Agency itself must now consider the conditions and circumstances which should prevail during the transitional period leading to its own disappearance, when the time comes.

Created to relieve the social problems which arose from the Palestine tragedy, UNRWA has lived through all the tragic events which have riddled the history of this people, in osmosis

totally atypical structure within the United Nations system.

In other words, the Agency has been a refuge, a shelter for an entire people in exile, as well as a window on the world for them. Since this people now has a recognized identity, with administrative structures at work in a determined territory, and intends to deepen and pursue its quest for self-determination and sovereignty on part of what was once Palestine, and since it has quasi-governmental and administrative organs in a position to receive and use international assistance, UNRWA tends to see its exclusive role being reduced with regard to development aid and humanitarian action.

In preparing for its dissolution, the Agency is faced with three major problems. The first concerns the organized and planned hand-over of its daily operations to the entitled authority when the Agency's *raison d'être* as operational intermediary disappears. This moment will come when the interested parties resolve the issue of the 1948 Palestine refugees and when the Palestinians, on their own territory, feel the time is right.

The second problem concerns the documentary facet of the Agency's activities. For 45 years, UNRWA has been accumulating documentary resources and archives of inestimable value for all those who will be entrusted with managing the implementation, in the new pacified situation, of the complex terms of the agreement to be defined. The Agency must therefore begin to put its documentary heritage in order.

The third problem, ultimately, is the successful completion of the final period of UNRWA's existence. It seemed appropriate to me, in accordance with the five-year interim period envisaged by the Declaration of Principles in Oslo, to fix a financial horizon for the needs of the Agency for the same duration. This financial plan was therefore submitted to the major donors in March 1995 in Amman. It should enable the international community to make a fully informed decision with a view to the renewal of UNRWA's mandate and, in the mid-term, to its eventual disappearance.

After almost half a century of activities in the Middle East, UNRWA has certainly succeeded, by giving an important place to human development, and in maintaining and sustaining the identity of a population which has probably suffered the most from the tragedy which has torn the Middle East apart since the Second World War. By doing this, the Agency has doubtless contributed to safeguarding the chances of peace which took such a long time to hatch and is still not fully fledged. All things considered, this option to back individual training has been the best way of preparing to secure peace.

New appointment

Peter Hansen of Denmark assumed the post of Commissioner-General of UNRWA on 22 January, succeeding Ilter Turkmen of Turkey, who retired after five years as Commissioner-General. ■



Secretary-General's 'Blue Books Series' showcases legacy of United Nations

Praise for series grows as sales top 11,000 copies

With the publication in early 1996 of *The United Nations and the Iraq-Kuwait Conflict, 1990-1996* and *The United Nations and Somalia, 1990-1996*, the Department of Public Information (DPI) has published,

in little over a year, nine "Blue Book" titles in English (for a total of 19 when French and other official UN languages are included). Comprehensive and authoritative, the series has quickly established itself as a major component in the Department's vital work of promoting deeper understanding and support for the goals and activities of the UN. Equally significant, it is an important international publishing enterprise which any Government or publishing house would be proud of. Reflecting this recognition, more than 11,000 copies have already been sold, at a cost of between \$30 and \$50 each.

The primary audience for these books is the research and academic community, whose work has a central bearing on long-term thinking and policy. UN links with this important constituency have grown stronger under the tenure of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who had a distinguished career as an author and professor of law before joining the diplomatic world and who has given a scholarly

hue to his period in office with his idea for, and authorship of, the Blue Books series.

A measure of the impact the series has had can be gauged from the comments of the internationally renowned law professor Philip Alston, who is Director of the Centre for International Public Law at the European University Institute in Florence: "The documents have been skilfully selected and edited and the introduction provides an excellent overview of the evolution of United Nations policy. In the absence of these volumes, it would be very difficult for the vast majority of researchers to obtain ready access to the documents collected in this series."



As Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar says: "It is not at all surprising that the Secretary-General's work on behalf of the international community should also include rigorous scholarship about the United Nations. The critical response to the series, and its impressive sales, indicates that this initiative is widely appreciated." Mr. Sanbar emphasized that although the books are aimed at specialists, they contain insights into international diplomacy and relations

among nations that a wider, more general readership will also find interesting.

Each book in the series focuses on a major international concern in which the UN has played a leading role. And each brings together for the first time in a single volume a definitive compilation of primary historical resources: the key relevant UN documentation, including some previously unpublished correspondence of UN Secretaries-General, as well as other valuable texts. Ironically, even though the UN has been the pivotal player in many of the great issues of our time, the vital legacy of the Organization was never recorded in this manner and there has never been such a central source of information to which scholars and others could turn. Those studying a particular UN effort needed to undertake a cumbersome and time-consuming effort to identify, locate and obtain the relevant materials.

Another feature of each book is an extensive, highly readable introduction by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, which chronicles the involvement of the UN and in which he offers his conclusions on the subject matter under discussion. The books, which average about 500 pages, also include a chronology of events and indexes of both the documents and the Secretary-General's introduction.

But again, the heart of these volumes is the documentation. The book on the struggle against apartheid, for example, contains the Freedom Charter of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela's statement at his 1964 trial in Pretoria, and all the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly concerning the international campaign for a democratic, non-racial South Africa. The volume on the successful peace-keeping and peace-building operation in El Salvador includes fascinating exchanges of letters between the Secretary-General, the President of El Salvador and members of the opposition Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional, as well as the entire text of the historic report of the Commission on the Truth. And the book on the advancement of women contains the full text of the landmark 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, other international conventions and declarations, action plans such as the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and statistics on the status of women worldwide. A similar wealth of materials fills all the other books in the series, which cover human rights, nuclear non-proliferation and peace-keeping operations in Cambodia, Mozambique and Somalia.

Other reviewers have included *Law Books in Review* (U.S.A.), which wrote that "no scholar, student, foreign policy practitioner and regional historian should ignore this literature". And Ms. Edy Kaufman, Director of the Centre for International Development and Conflict Management (U.S.A.), stated that the series "offers an outstanding amount of information". Another indication of the Blue Books' appeal and strength is that a number of prominent publishers have expressed interest in issuing the series. In the end, it was decided that the UN itself should remain the publisher.

On 14 February, the Secretary-General met with several

members of DPT's Blue Books team. Assistant Secretary-General Sanbar noted that a remarkable inter-departmental and high-level coordination lay at the heart of the Secretariat's ability to produce so many comprehensive studies in such rapid fashion. The relevant substantive offices have offered crucial guidance on complex issues, while translators, text processors and others in the Office of Conference and Support Services have met the formidable challenge of readying the documents selected for publication. Most of the books have been printed internally by the Reproduction Section, at a fraction of the private-sector cost of producing similarly high-quality volumes. Worldwide distribution and sales have been facilitated by the active involvement of UN Information Centres, which, in addition to arranging for translations into non-official UN languages and targeting promotional efforts at leading experts at the national level, have used the books as "living resources" for important regional and national conferences on human rights and the various other subject areas covered by the series.

Future plans for the series include exploring with outside publishers the potential for CD-ROM, multimedia and other computer-based spin-offs, "popular" versions of the books containing only the introduction, and other ways to extend the series' worldwide reach and revenue-generating capacity.

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Transitional Justice: How Emerging Democracies Reckon with Former Enemies

Neil Kritz, ed.

Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1995

Vol I: 640 pp. ISBN 1-878379-47-X

Vol II: 832 pp. ISBN: 1-878379-48-8

Vol III: 880 pp. ISBN: 1-878379-49-6

Constitutional democratization is on stage in many regions of the world today as an increasing number of countries shed their repressive pasts. Although welcome, this trend raises many troubling and complex issues, all tied to the core question of how new democracies will reckon with the legacy of abuses committed by past regimes. How should the new government delineate the division between itself and the old regime? Should it prosecute ousted officials or purge old regime workers from their government positions? Should it compensate and rehabilitate victims? If so, will such policies hinder the rebuilding process or compromise rule by law?

At this watershed juncture in world history comes a landmark contribution from Neil Kritz, senior scholar in the Rule of Law Initiative for the United States Institute of Peace, author of reports on the treatment of war crimes in Rwanda and Cambodia, and coordinator for the review of the draft Russian Constitution. From Nelson Mandela's foreword to a formidable lineup of expert contributing authors and reports from such groups as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Council of Europe, and the Organization of American States, Kritz has assembled the most comprehensive study of its kind.

This is a three-volume work of 35 countries over the past 50 years. The volumes can be navigated using an author index, country index, or a cross reference between individual country studies and associated legal documents.

Volume I, "General Considerations", is a multi-disciplinary analysis of transitional justice. Perspectives from political science, history, law, philosophy, and psychology distinguish between different governmental transitions and the circumstances that shape them. Accountability and moral responsibility are critical topics and, with a general discussion of ethics, are reconciled with the constraints often posed by political systems. The laws of war, specifically command responsibility for war crimes and the duties of both superior and subordinate where immoral and illegal orders are concerned, are also considered.

Volume II, "Country Studies", is a chronological, in-depth study of 21 countries in the post-Second World War era. Germany's two transitions, from Nazism and from communism, receive due attention. Critical transitional justice issues for Germany—the trials of Erich Honecker and the East German border guards, the status of Stasi informants, and the issue of public access to Stasi files—are discussed. Kritz praises Greece and the Karamanlis Government for a quick implementation of "dejunctification" and for tackling remaining issues of transitional justice in an "unusually firm

and swift manner". Post-Franco Spain, Argentina's desaparecidos and the subsequent "*Nunca Mas*" report, Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Revolution" (including an interview with Vaclav Havel), and an analysis of post-communist Russia are other highlights of this volume.

Volume III, "Laws, Rulings, and Reports", contains more than 100 juridical documents from 28 regime transitions. It is divided into four sections. The first contains Truth Commission charters, reports and constitution excerpts of transitioning governments. The second section details the controversial nullification of selected laws and the enactment of purge, screening and voting restriction decrees punishing "conscious collaborators". Judicial reviews are provided. The third section tackles the question of whether to prosecute or grant amnesty to transgressors. Presidential pardons, excerpts from the Nuremberg tribunal decisions, special prosecutor reports, and revealing legal brief of the 1991 murder trial of East German border guards help frame this debate. The fourth is devoted to compensation and rehabilitation. The degree of public liability for victims, specific provisions, indemnification laws and the restoration of confiscated property are examined.

Kritz cites several dilemmas inherent to transitional justice. First is whether to publicly prosecute former leaders and their strongmen as a means to establish government credibility. The alternative is the granting of amnesty or suspension of statutes of limitations in order to move forward and not dwell in the past. Second, regardless of the severity of the crimes, vengeance must not be allowed to taint judicial due process, a non-negotiable tenet of a government of laws. The "kangaroo trial" and subsequent execution of Nicolae Ceausescu is a contemporary example of succumbing to that temptation. As South Africa's 1993 Constitution eloquently puts it: "... gross violations of human rights ... can now be addressed on the basis that there is a need for understanding but not for vengeance, a need for reparation but not for retaliation". Another dilemma lies in non-criminal sanctions, such as the practice of lustration in the Czech Republic. The critical question here is whether purging from the public sector runs counter to democratic principles. Lastly, there is the dilemma of restitution and rehabilitation, of compensation for property or other material loss. For a fledgling democracy, this pressing yet fundamental issue typically boils down to a question of how best to utilize precious and scarce financial resources. Funds can be used to compensate victims or they can be used to prime, privatize or otherwise reform the economy.

Transitional justice has become internationalized. The trend is for new democracies to pass muster in the eyes of the world community. The attention of foreign governments and non-governmental organizations, especially in advising or resourcing, is therefore welcome by governments in transition as a means to establishing legitimacy. Because transitioning from one political system to another is a costly enterprise, all the more so if the disbursement of compensation is included, financing transitional justice has also become internationalized. Considering its timely release and robust

BOOKWATCH

scholarliness, *Transitional Justice* rates as one of the most important political science works of the past year. It is essential reading. Expect it to be a guide post in the field for years.

Strengthening the Family: Implications for International Development

By Marian Zeitlin, Ratna Megawangi, Ellen M. Kramer, Nancy D. Colletta, E.D. Babatunde and David Garman
United Nations University Press, 1995
268 pp. ISBN 92-808-0890-7

In many countries, and certainly in the West, much is made by politicians of the contemporary decline of the nuclear family, the rate at which family values are eroding, and the prospects for reversing that trend. With all this apparent primacy on the family, the irony lies "in the design of development policies, [where] families have remained an invisible layer sandwiched between the individual and the community". The authors posit that the smallest unit of analysis should be neither the individual nor the household, but the family. Unfortunately, federal and private aid programmes generally fail to recognize this.

Scholars all, these authors rely on vast fieldwork. Zeitlin has worked in 24 countries and specializes in the design of child and family development programmes. Megawangi is a faculty member at Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, whose research interests focus on women and family. A pediatric nutritionist, Kramer has worked directly in child nutrition programmes for the past 15 years. Colletta has worked in developing countries for 25 years, designing developmental programmes for preschool children. Babatunde is associate professor of anthropology at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, with a research focus on family values and social change. An associate professor of economics at Tufts University, Garman's research centres on applications of econometrics.

The basis for this book develops from a five-year, three country United Nations Children's Fund study on the development of children in poverty. A judicious review of an extensive body of literature was undertaken and, proved to be dominated by studies of Western, North American Caucasian families. To counterbalance this bias, the authors use structural models to test their hypotheses against studies of two family groups distinct from the West, the Javanese of Indonesia and the Yoruba of Nigeria.

The authors begin by charting the evolution of the post-modern family. Special attention is devoted to the underlying themes of social change as a function of societal modernization and the feminization of poverty. Effects of international development assistance in early childhood development are examined with respect to a "two-generational" approach, that is, to avert poverty in the child's generation while improving overall family conditions.

Asserting that "the family is a living entity", the authors endeavour to identify characteristics of healthy families. Family social wellness is defined by four components that "roughly correspond to domains of policy of intervention approaches"—management; caring capacity; beliefs, rules, and goals; and boundary maintenance or structural

integrity. Several policy recommendations are made. First, poverty relief programmes must "seek to develop the potential of families as an important force for promoting development". Second, policy for families must be determined by people of "intellectual stature". As such, strengthening of universities results in stronger social programmes at the local level. Third, more resources should be directed to early childhood education. Finally, family life education programmes can serve as a forum for "community mobilization", provide counselling for families in crises, and assist migrants arriving in urban areas. One of the strengths of this book is that the authors offer a visionary direction for future research. Not surprisingly, they cite a need for a multi-disciplined research approach. "The family is a topic that demands this blending and synthesis of methods."

The Future of Europe

By Peter Coffey
Brookfield, VT: Edward Elgar, 1995
204 pp. ISBN 1-85278-587-X

Peter Coffey is a British national and holder of the United States West Chair at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. This compendium highlights key issues and introduces policy proposals that affect Europe generally and the European Community (EC) specifically. Although Coffey offers the reader a glimpse of future security, foreign policy and social issues, they are largely examined as a function of economics. Considering the EC was conceived as an economic creature, however, his primacy on economics is not misplaced. Freedoms of movement of goods, labour and capital, the establishment of services subsequently receive due attention.

Coffey's style is frank and unapologetic: the Maastricht Treaty, he claims, is a "hotchpotch, a rushed job, an inadequate document" and a potential impediment to any enlargement or broadening of the EC, a development Coffey advocates. Britain and France draw sharp criticism for their conduct during the Bosnia crisis.

Coffey envisages a "Europe à la carte" inasmuch as any European union must be a selective union. Mindful of the progress made by the EC, he nevertheless expresses impatience over the impurity of its democratic practices. Such practices are "at best very thin", and he offers specific proposals to remedy them. He calls for the election of representatives from the EC member parliaments to the European Parliament, the formation of a "European Senate" consisting of members of the upper houses of Member States and the abolishment of the rotating presidency.

Most of this book was completed in mid-1993, and Coffey acknowledges that the many changes in Europe since then may cause his material to be somewhat dated. While the overall timeliness of the book is not diminished too greatly, supplemental contributions by Coffey would be most welcome, especially in light of the Balkan peace initiative and associated peace operations underway in the former Yugoslavia.

—Reviewed by Joseph Saffron

United States to leave UNIDO

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted with regret the decision of the United States to withdraw from the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as of 31 December 1996 and hoped that UNIDO would be able to adjust its work programme in order to account for the new situation.

Mauricio de Maria y Campos, Director-General of UNIDO, said the loss of the United States membership would be felt not only in the lack of financial but also moral support for the Organization's crucial work. "However, we must and shall continue to serve our constituents because they rely on us for their industrial future."

UNIDO—a Vienna-based specialized agency of the UN mandated to promote industrial development in developing countries—"is a unique forum for industrial development dedicated to providing client countries with manufacturing technology and management advice", Mr. de Maria y Campos said. "The new UNIDO is also supporting the creation and strengthening of private industry, market-oriented mechanisms and self-sustaining industrial institutions in developing countries, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, where such structures do not exist or are still weak. In absenting itself from this vital mission, the United States is foregoing the opportunity to influence the course of industrialization and could well jeopardize its own standing in the international community", he added.

Mr. de Maria y Campos went on to outline UNIDO's reform programme, noting that since the end of 1993, "UNIDO had taken unprecedented strides in refocusing its services, reforming its organizational structure, boosting its efficiency and revitalizing its mandate".

In announcing the United States' decision, Ambassador John B. Ritch III emphasized the budget constraints currently facing his country and the consequent need "to consider withdrawing from a number of organizations based on a careful analysis of our competing priorities". He also referred to "adverse Congressional opinion concerning United States' participation in UNIDO and several other organizations".

Following up on global commitments

A concerted attack on poverty is the unifying principle behind a system-wide plan of action meant to translate the outcomes of recent UN global development conferences into concrete national policies and programmes. The action plan, which brings together UN programmes, funds and specialized agencies, was announced by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 17 October. "It is important to reach international agreement as we have in these conferences, but it is even more important to implement those agreements", he said.

Under the plan, which emerged from a meeting (12-13 October) of the UN's Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), four inter-agency task forces will address basic social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, the enabling environment for social and economic development,

and the empowerment and advancement of women. These are the critical areas of concern cutting across the agreements entered into at the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development and, most recently, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. An inter-agency mechanism is already in place to follow-up on Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. At its meeting, the ACC also agreed to launch a new inter-agency initiative in support of African development as part of implementing the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

New appointments

- Yasushi Akashi of Japan has been appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March 1996. He has held numerous senior posts within the UN, including most recently as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. Earlier appointments included the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Former Yugoslavia and, before that, Special Representative for Cambodia.

- Peter Hansen of Denmark on 22 January became Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), replacing Ilter Türkmen of Turkey, who retired as head of UNRWA after five years. Mr. Hansen had previously served as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

- Ambassador Jin Yongjian of China became Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, effective 15 March. He replaces Ji Chaozhu, who returned to his national service in China. Mr. Jin just completed a term as his country's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva.

- Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani of Iraq on 1 March returned to the Office of the Secretary-General as Special Adviser. Since 1 November 1995, he had been temporarily replacing Kofi Annan of Ghana as head of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (DPKO). Among numerous high-level UN posts, Mr. Kittani also was the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tajikistan and, earlier, Special Representative for Somalia. Mr. Annan, who has concluded a four-month stint as the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Former Yugoslavia and, in this context, to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has resumed his functions as Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations.

- Iqbal Riza of Pakistan has been appointed the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Coordinator of UN operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was announced on 1 February. Prior to his new assignment, Mr. Riza was an Assistant Secretary-General in DPKO.

Yemen-Eritrea dispute

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali during a visit to the region said he was ready to play the role of "honest broker" to solve the dispute between Yemen and Eritrea over the Hanish islands in the Red Sea, if the two sides so

desired. He held talks with President Ali Abdallah Saleh of Yemen on 30 December in Sana'a and with President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea on 31 December in Asmara. The Secretary-General was pleased to note that the political will existed on both sides to resolve the dispute by peaceful means.

While reiterating that he was ready to extend his good offices to help the two countries settle their differences, he said he still hoped that the issue could be resolved bilaterally or through regional arrangements.

Secretary-General offers his good offices for peace talks in Sierra Leone

During his visit to Sierra Leone on 29 November, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali assured the people that the UN was there to help them achieve peace, security, progress and democracy in their country. He added that his visit had to be seen in the context of the international community's support for peace and democracy in Sierra Leone, and hoped that it would help obtain increased assistance for the democratization and reconstruction of the country. A stable and democratic government was however a prerequisite for the country's reconstruction.

In his report of 21 November (S/1995/975) submitted to the Security Council just before his visit to Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General noted that the internal conflict had damaged or destroyed much of the vital physical and social infrastructure of the country.

The conflict began in March 1991, when the forces of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched attacks to overthrow the Government of the All People's Congress (APC) headed by former President Joseph S. Momoh.

On 29 April 1992, the APC Government was overthrown by a military coup and the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC), headed by Captain Valentine Strasser, was set up. After the coup, the RUF made additional demands and continued its conflict with the new Government.

While the situation in Sierra Leone was generally characterized by conflict, human suffering and economic decline, there were some positive emerging trends which, if assisted, could contribute to the re-establishment of peace and stability, the Secretary-General's report stated.

In order to consolidate the democratic process and support the incoming elected civilian Government, the Secretary-General urged the international community to demonstrate its solidarity with the people of Sierra Leone, many of whom believed that the world had abandoned them. He also called on all Member States to provide the fullest possible material and financial support to the Interim National Electoral Commission (INEC) so that elections could be held as scheduled on 26 February 1996.

On 27 November, the Security Council, in a presidential statement, called for an immediate end to the fighting in Sierra Leone and urged the RUF to take advantage of the Secretary-General's offer of good offices to facilitate negotiations.

Council President Salim bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman expressed deep concern at the suffering resulting from the conflict, in particular that of nearly 2 million internally displaced Sierra Leoneans, who constituted almost half the population of the country, and underlined the need for generous humanitarian assistance. He deplored attacks on humanitarian convoys and demanded that those responsible cease such actions immediately. The Council welcomed the programme of transition to democratic constitutional rule set by the Government of Sierra Leone and supported the work of the INEC in preparing for the elections.

On 16 January 1996, Captain Strasser was ousted by army officers and replaced by Brig. Julius Maada Bio. The Secretary-General in a statement said that he was disturbed by the reports of a *coup d'état* and continued to believe that the political future of the country should be determined by free and fair elections. He called on the international community to urge the RUF to take advantage of his good offices and to start negotiations.

In a reconvened session on 12 February, the National Consultative Conference (NCC) decided overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining the election date of 26 February. Chairman Bio assured the nation that the NPRC would abide by the NCC decision, that every effort would be made to ensure security during the elections and that power would be handed over to the democratically elected civilian leader in a smooth and peaceful manner. The Security Council welcomed those developments in a presidential statement issued on 15 February.

Four Committees considered human rights reports

The Human Rights Committee, at its fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 16 October-3 November), considered periodic reports from the United Kingdom relating to Hong Kong, and from Estonia, Sweden and Afghanistan on measures they had taken to implement the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Composed of 18 independent human rights experts, the Committee also examined 14 confidential communications in closed session from individuals alleging that their rights under the International Covenant had been violated.

The 18-member Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its thirteenth session (Geneva, 20 November-8 December), considered measures taken by Colombia, Norway, Mauritius, Ukraine and Algeria to implement the International Covenant on those rights, also adopted in 1966. The Committee against Torture, at its fifteenth session (Geneva, 13-24 November), examined the reports of Denmark, the United Kingdom, Guatemala and Colombia on implementation of the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The 10-member Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its tenth session (Geneva, 30 October-17 November), examined reports of Italy, Ukraine, Germany, Senegal, Portugal and the Holy See.

A preview of some important UN conferences and events

April-June 1996

New York

1-26 April	Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and its Working Group, substantive session
8 or 15-26 April	Commission on Sustainable Development, 4th session
15-19 April	General Assembly, resumed 50th session on public administration and development
15 April-10 May	Disarmament Commission
6-10 May	Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
21-30 May	Commission on Sustainable Development, special session
28 May-14 June	UN Commission on International Trade Law, 29th session
3-7 June	UNICEF—Executive Board, annual session
10-28 June	Committee on Contributions, 57th session
17-21 June	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
24 June-26 July	Economic and Social Council, substantive session

Geneva

1 April-10 May	Conference on Disarmament—Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban, inter-sessional meetings
13 May-28 June	Committee against Torture, 16th session
6 May-26 July	International Law Commission, 48th session
13 May-28 June	Conference on Disarmament, second part
20-25 May	WHO—World Health Assembly, 49th session
4-21 June	International Labour Organisation—General Conference, 83rd session
17 June-5 July	International Law Seminar

Vienna

16-25 April	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 39th session
3-14 June	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 39th session
10-14 June	International Atomic Energy Agency
17-21 June	UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 45th session

Other locations

17-24 April	ESCAP, 52nd session, Bangkok
27 April-11 May	UN Conference on Trade and Development, 9th session, Midrand, South Africa
3-14 June	UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul

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General Assembly

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Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, *Argentina, Armenia, *Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, *Belarus, *Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, *Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, *Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, *Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, *Chile, *China, *Colombia, Comoros, Congo, *Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, *Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, *Dominican Republic, *Ecuador, *Egypt, *El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, *Ethiopia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, *France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, *Greece, Grenada, *Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, *Haiti, *Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, *India, Indonesia, *Iran, *Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, *Lebanon, Lesotho, *Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, *Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, *Netherlands, *New Zealand, *Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, *Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, *Panama, Papua New Guinea, *Paraguay, *Peru, *Philippines, *Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, *Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, *South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, *Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, *Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, *Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, *United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, *United States, *Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, *Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, *Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Founding Member

Security Council

The Security Council has 15 members. The UN Charter has designated five States as permanent members, and the General Assembly elects 10 other members for two-year terms. The term of office of each non-permanent member of the Council ends on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The five permanent members are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States.

The 10 non-permanent members in 1996 are: Botswana (1996), Chile (1997), Egypt (1997), Germany (1996), Guinea-Bissau (1997), Honduras (1996), Indonesia (1996), Italy (1996), Poland (1997), Republic of Korea (1997).

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council has 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. The term of office for each member expires on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below. In 1996, the Council is composed of the following States:

Argentina (1998), Australia (1997), Bangladesh (1998), Belarus (1997), Brazil (1997), Bulgaria (1996), Canada (1998), Central African Republic (1998), Chile (1996), China (1998), Colombia (1997), Congo (1997), Costa Rica (1996), Côte d'Ivoire (1997), Czech Republic (1998), Egypt (1996), Finland (1998), France (1996), Gabon (1998), Germany (1996), Ghana (1996), Greece (1996), Guyana (1998), India (1997), Indonesia (1996), Ireland (1996), Jamaica (1997), Japan (1996), Jordan (1998), Lebanon (1998), Luxembourg (1997), Malaysia (1997), Netherlands (1997), Nicaragua (1998), Pakistan (1996), Paraguay (1996), Philippines (1997), Poland (1997), Portugal (1996), Romania (1998), Russian Federation (1998), Senegal (1996), South Africa (1997), Sudan (1997), Sweden (1998), Thailand (1997), Togo (1998), Tunisia (1998), Uganda (1997), United Kingdom (1998), United Republic of Tanzania (1996), United States (1997), Venezuela (1996), Zimbabwe (1996).

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council has five members—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States—which are also the five permanent members of the Security Council. (On 1 November 1994, the Trusteeship Council had formally suspended operations.)

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice has 15 members, elected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges hold nine-year terms, which end on 5 February of the year indicated in parentheses below. The composition of the Court in 1996 is as follows:

Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria (1997), Mohamed Shahabuddeen of Guyana (1997), Luigi Ferrari Bravo of Italy (1997), Vladlen S. Vereshchetin of the Russian Federation (1997), Stephen M. Schwebel of the United States (1997), Gilbert Guillaume of France (2000), Raymond Ranjeva of Madagascar (2000), Christopher G. Weeramantry of Sri Lanka (2000), Rosalyn Higgins of the United Kingdom (2000), Andrés Aguilar-Mawdsley of Venezuela (2000), Shi Jiuyong of China (2003), Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany (2003), Géza Herczegh of Hungary (2003), Shigeru Oda of Japan (2003), Abdul G. Koroma of Sierra Leone (2003).

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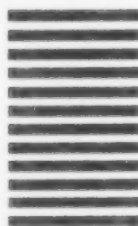
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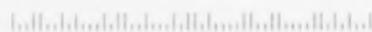
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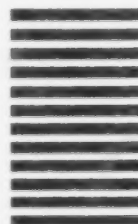
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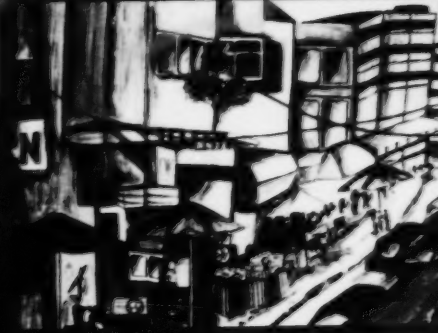
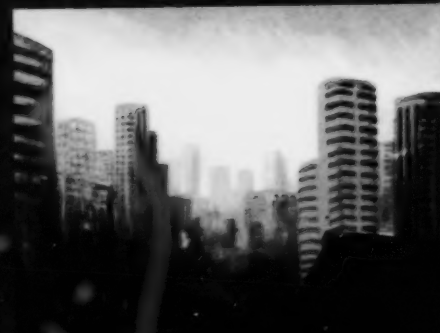
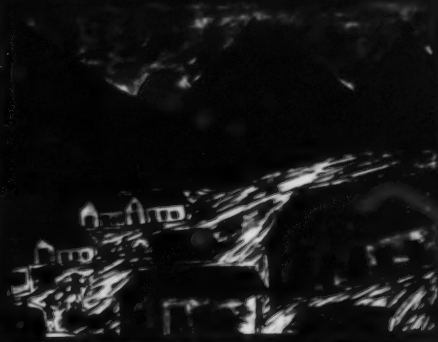
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